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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH 2015

GEM FEATURE:
MAKING LIFE EASIER

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**CHILDREN'S
CHOICES**

Page 18

**MARIE CURIE
DAFFODIL APPEAL**

Page 26



**SIX NATIONS
RUGBY**

BACK PAGE COMMENT - PAGE 44

HOW'S THIS FOR COOL BOOKMARKS?



James and Tim Freeman and Emilia Stroud,
proudly show off their Cool Bookmarks.
(SEE PAGE 3 FOR MORE PICTURES
AND A FULL REPORT).

Volunteers aim to tackle litter hot spots around Cowbridge

A NEW volunteer group has been formed in Cowbridge, aiming to tackle 'litter hot-spots' - and extra hands are very welcome.

Organised by Julia Hoyle and Tim Wort, who is the Vale of Glamorgan project officer for Keep Wales Tidy, the 'Litter-Free Cowbridge' group meets once a month to tackle problem spots around the town (which are not

cleaned by the council).

Julia told The GEM: "In our first meet up, we collected eight bags of rubbish from the car park behind the Physic Garden and the Butts".

The next litter pick is tomorrow (Friday, February 13) at 10am, meeting in the Town Hall car park.

All equipment is provided. For more information, contact: julia.hoyle@tiscali.co.uk



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Villagers vow to fight solar farm plan

VILLAGERS in Treoes and Llangan are opposing the latest solar farm application in the Vale - this time a 2.2MW array of panels at Court Farm.

Last week, the members of Llangan Community Council voted to oppose the plan, by Sybac Solar International GmbH, a German renewable energy company. The application is still to be approved by the Vale Council planning committee.

At 2.2 MW, the solar array is smaller than some other recent applications in the Vale. At West Aberthaw, for instance, a 5MW scheme was given the go-ahead.

Some villagers have formed an action group, entitled 'Save Our Local Agricultural Resources', giving the neat acronym SOLAR, and the loss of good quality agricultural land is a central plank of their argument against the proposal.

However, Gina Moore, a spokeswoman for the group, told The GEM that the five-week construction period was probably the biggest worry, because villagers insist that the roads in the area are too narrow to cope with heavy construction traffic.

These worries were aired at a public meeting in October, and Gina Moore insists that a lorry road test was promised, but that it had not been carried out.

She said: "Because a 36ft bin lorry can manage the journey each fortnight, the Vale Council's Highways

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

Department has decided that the lanes are just fine for the development!

"So they are saying it is OK for 12-metre, four-axle flatbed lorries to travel the lanes 150 times to manage the

project, to bring in solar panels, transformers and switchgear. It will also be OK for a 10-tonne tipper to travel 40 times through the lanes with aggregates".

(CONTINUED
ON PAGE 4)

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Sledgehammer to crack a nut!

PLEASE could anyone tell me what on earth is going on at Aberthaw roadworks?

The 'blind corner' that was a road hazard was removed – job done, but what is the need for the rest of it?

I know Rome wasn't built in a day, but it would still be in the planning stages if it followed the same progress as this site.

Yours in anticipation of a 'quick' solution.

P Jones,
Llantwit Major.

Rhoose library battle goes on

YOUR letters correspondent, Ms Ffion Sara Jeffery, has been misinformed: the Vale Council have not yet decided on the fate of the 'village' libraries.

The consultation period ended on December 31 and senior library staff are now assessing the responses, which include the Rhoose petition of 1,323 signatures, letters and emails.

We expect this report to be submitted to the council late in February or early in March, when it will be discussed by

the cabinet and the scrutiny committee. Members of the public are welcome to attend these meetings as observers.

I am part of the 'Save Rhoose Library' group – our current campaign is to send Valentine cards to the library – the address is Rhoose Library, Fontygary Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DS.

Ms Jeffrey, her sister and friends are most welcome to send cards.

I expect that we will also attend the council meetings.

Cliff Darlington,
Rhoose.

Working hard to keep it open

IN your paper last week, I saw a letter saying 'RIP my old friend', concerning Rhoose Library.

I was a bit dismayed by this, as the library is still open for business and the Rhoose Save Our Library committee is still working hard to keep our library open.

They are doing a very good job of trying to save it. Can I also say that the closures have not gone before the

deciding committee yet.

If they decide to close it, they say they want us to run it, but there's a big 'but' there! As well as paying for our library through our council tax, they want us to raise the money to run it.

I for one am not sure this is legal, making us pay twice for something we already pay our taxes for.

Please correct me if I am wrong. Long live Rhoose library!

Theresa Branton
Rhoose

FINAL DECISION NOT YET TAKEN

ON last week's GEM letters page, a correspondent wrote to say that she was upset that Rhoose Library is 'closing'.

Readers will be well aware of the 'Save Our Library' campaign, run by Rhoose residents.

However, a final decision on the future of the library has still to be taken, and it will be the subject of deliberation by the Vale Council cabinet.

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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

'RURAL COMMUNITIES NEED TO TAKE THEIR SHARE OF HOUSING'

IT is rare that I have felt the need to write to a newspaper about what is happening in the area.

However, I feel I do need to put my point in response to a lot of previous NIMBY letters published in the paper.

I and my family have lived in Cowbridge since 1994 and I retired here in 2004, after serving Queen and country for 37 years. My younger children went to school and grew up in and around the village and have many friends here.

Currently, I have one family member renting in Cowbridge (the rent so high they cannot afford to save for a mortgage) and the other still living at home, because they would have to move away from the village to be able to afford to rent.

We all have to accept that the UK population is set to continue to grow and our families need to live somewhere. We cannot, as responsible citizens, just continue to say they should live somewhere else; what right do we have to say people must live elsewhere?

In my view, every local council has the responsibility to ensure growth is spread evenly throughout their areas of concern.

Now, that is not to say I am in support of builders just throwing up houses wherever they feel they can make the biggest profit. It is up to our planning authorities to regulate and control building

'Why not Llandow?'

IT is surprising that your Cardiff correspondent (GEM letters, recently), having lived in the Vale previously, seems to be unaware of the existence of a large under-used brown field site near Cowbridge.

This could be substituted for the hundreds of houses

spread across the Vale which she mentions. To quote her further: it is one site, relatively "sustainable" – big enough for its own shops, school, surgery – close to roads (and the railway), not far from Llantwit or Cowbridge.

If Darren Farm seems logical to her, then Llandow seems logical to me. Sadly, our council seems unwilling to discuss this option at all, for reasons unknown.

R Bradshaw,
Cowbridge.

Voters in Vale will still have a voice

WHAT a headline in The GEM recently 'Destructive LDP has handed over rural Vale to the planners' (letter from Paul Jeremy of Vale Villages Together network).

He praises another correspondent, Elizabeth Nash, and levels criticism at the Labour-controlled council.

I hold no brief for any party; I left Labour 15 years ago in disgust at that party's policies and its hierarchy.

However, criticism from me or anyone else

should be fair and Mr Jeremy's appears not to be. He says councillors cannot be held to account and "very likely there will be no further Vale Council elections."

Why does he say that? Does he believe that David Cameron and company will stage a coup and abolish all future elections – or is he referring to the now scrapped merger with Bridgend?

If so, there would still be elections. Furthermore, who elected Mr Jeremy as spokesman for 'Villages Together'?

Who are they? Christopher Short, Barry.

and the provision of infrastructure to minimise the impact on existing population and facilities.

In the case of Darren Farm, the plans I have seen seem to reach a reasonable compromise, with the addition of a road between the A48 and Llantwit Major Road, which would remove HGV traffic from Cowbridge and Llyswoyney at a stroke.

If the planning authorities then ensure a junior school; maybe a small community shopping area; the relevant infrastructure in terms of drains, roads, etc., and ensure a range of housing is built (including affordable housing for local families), then I believe the development could be a welcome addition.

The homes would bring increased spending in local businesses. My remaining concern would be the amount of traffic going to the high school; this problem could be simply resolved by banning all parents from driving their children to school in their 4X4s.

In addition to the removal of HGV traffic, this would make the roads much safer and walking to school would lead to healthier children and parents.

Another possibility for car driving parents would be to save money on their petrol and pay for a local bus to pick up and return their children around the village, further reducing traffic.

It is my view, that as reasonable citizens of Cowbridge, we should accept our responsibility for ensuring that our children have somewhere to live that is affordable, no matter what their circumstances.

Furthermore, we should then put all our efforts into ensuring that those we vote into power on the local councils carry out their duties to develop the local area for ALL its residents, protect the environment, and make Cowbridge an even better place to live in.

Perhaps then we will see the end of NIMBYism throughout the Vale.

David Parry
Cowbridge

'Shame on the unfair society'

ITHOUGHT your readers would be interested to know that as I'm having a 74th birthday, and really don't need presents, I asked friends to contribute to the foodbanks as an alternative birthday gift.

The response has been overwhelming and I want to take this opportunity to thank the charity's volunteers who do such a wonderful job.

While I'm not a member of any political party, I was reminded that our MP Alun Cairns believes that some people who use foodbanks are incapable of managing the small amount of money they receive.

Recently, I heard a quote on 'Thought for the Day' which

explained the difference between sympathy and empathy.

Empathy is when you can imagine what it is like to be in another's skin. The MP seems to lack this.

I've been delivering the food to the collection point at County HQ, Holton Road, Barry, where the staff, particularly the men on the gate, have been helpful (as I am disabled and can't carry it). They seem to have empathy, thank goodness.

Personally, I feel enraged that, as the fourth or fifth richest country in the world, we need such places and my dream is that one day we will have a society that doesn't believe in the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer.

Well done to all the drivers and volunteers who try to help in this unfair society. Ms Jane Walker, Barry.

Fracking: clearer guidelines needed

Congratulations to the Welsh Assembly on taking a bold and significant step to prevent fracking in Wales until it's proved safe. Last Wednesday, February 4, following a debate in the plenary session, Assembly Members voted in favour of a freeze on fracking.

Our organisation, Llantrithyd Residents' Association, has been campaigning against the dangers posed by fracking to health of the local and animal population and the environment.

We were delighted by the news.

However, we believe that, in light of this important declaration, the National Assembly needs to issue new, clear guidelines to local councils to assist them in declining future fracking planning applications, confident in the knowledge that their decision won't be overturned upon appeal.

Llongyfarchiadau mawr i'r Cynulliad ar y cam arwyddocaol yma.

We also say a big thank you to everyone who has supported us and signed our petition.

Sian Elin Jones,
(Chair, Llantrithyd Residents' Association).

'BUS SERVICE IS JUST RIGHT'

ALL too often, the public transport options between the Vale towns and villages are criticised.

I'd like to commend New Adventures Travel for the new 321 service between Llantwit Major, Cowbridge, Talbot Green and Cardiff.

Having lost my sight to the extent that I had to hang up my car keys aged only 41, I found that travelling around the Vale was very difficult. Now thanks to this

excellent service, I can once more be independent in visiting friends, shops, services and leisure outlets.

The accessible coaches are clean and comfortable and the route is direct. The drivers are helpful and friendly. I have heard that this service is on a three-month trial. Please use it or we might lose it, and for people like me, it would be a real loss indeed.

Well done NAT, you have got this just right. Julia McHugh,
Llantwit Major.

'So glad that I have Meals on Wheels'

IF, like me, you are aged and on your own, I advise you to have 'Meals on Wheels'.

It ensures that you have a proper meal each day. The meals are brought to you hot and nicely cooked. You are given a list of what is available; I am so glad I decided to have them.

Mrs Heveron,
Rhoose.

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL FEBRUARY 19)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
12 Thur	11.17	8.1	23.51	7.8
13 Fri			12.23	7.8
14 Sat	01.01	7.7	13.42	7.6
15 Sun	02.29	7.8	15.04	8.0
16 Mon	03.44	8.4	16.19	8.7
17 Tues	04.44	9.2	17.17	9.4
18 Wed	05.35	9.9	18.06	10.0
19 Thur	06.31	10.5	18.58	10.4

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

We abide by the code of practice upheld by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). This contains provisions for issues such as accuracy.

If you have a complaint, write to us at the address below, left, or call editorial manager Don John on 01446 774484. All complaints will be fully investigated. If you are not satisfied with the outcome, you may wish to contact IPSO c/o Halton House, 20-23 High Holborn, London EC1N 2JD. Website: www.ipso.co.uk. Tel: 0300 123 2220. E-Mail: complaints@ipso.co.uk. Enquiries: inquiries@ipso.co.uk.

THE COWBRIDGE LIBRARY OPENS ITS DOORS FOR NATIONAL CELEBRATION!



Seren Horsey with Valentine craft and cool bookmark.



James and Tim Freeman and mum, helping with the library quiz.

COWBRIDGE Library celebrated National Libraries Day with a number of events throughout last week.

These included a successful quiz night on Wednesday, February 4, attended by over 50 people and the inaugural meeting of Cowbridge Library Afternoon Book Group took place on February 5. New members are welcome.

The next meeting is on March 5 from 2.30pm-4pm to discuss the novel *The Legacy of Elizabeth Pringle* by Kirsty Wark. Copies of the book can be picked up from the library.

On February 5, there was a visit from Suzanne Carpenter, a Cardiff-based book illustrator. She enthralled the year-2 class from Ysgol Iolo Morganwg who created wonderful cat collages.

On February 7, the Cool Crafts session were busily making Valentine's Day cards and also on the Saturday, children came in to make 'Cowbridge Library is Cool' bookmarks and take part in a library quiz.

"More than 1,700 people visited the library last week and it was a great way to celebrate National Libraries Day!" reported community librarian Melanie Weeks.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Your local correspondent is **NANCY DAVIDGE**
"Tyneydd", Llangan.
(01656) 860303
TREOES, LLANGAN
& ST MARY HILL

Llangan school

AS this is the last week of term, the children are going to have a fantastic time.

On Wednesday, February 11, they were going to Sophia Gardens in Cardiff, to take part in a Welsh National Table Tennis tournament.

Today (February 12) the school's PTA is hosting a Valentine disco for the children from 6pm to 7.30pm.

On Friday, February

13, the school will close for half term.

Welcome back!

A WARM welcome was extended to Young At Heart Club stalwarts Gwyneth and Cyril Jones and Norma Newman, who have been ill. All their friends hope they have left their health problems behind.

There is always a warm welcome for Vera Jones who, with her daughter and son-in-law, maintain regular visits to the club since moving to the Barry area from St Mary Hill.



Charlotte Ford, Mr Ford and Charlotte Esplin.

Banking hours reduction the 'thin end of wedge'?

BARCLAYS BANK in Llantwit Major is now shutting on Tuesdays – and also closing at 4pm on other weekdays instead of 4.30pm.

The decision by the bank to curtail its opening hours has led a local councillor to question whether it heralds further reductions in banking services in the town.

Local councillor Gwyn John said: "I'm worried it could be the thin end of the wedge."

"Not everyone goes online to deal with banking and local branches are important to people."

He said the very busy cash point in the town centre illustrated the need for a local service.

Llantwit currently has three bank branches – Barclays, NatWest and Lloyds TSB. Cowbridge on the other hand has four – HSBC, Barclays, NatWest and Lloyds TSB.

Coun John pointed out: "Llantwit Major is bigger than Cowbridge and the third largest town in the Vale, so it doesn't make sense."

"I will be writing to Barclays Bank to question the new hours."

Mervyn Owen, Barclays community leader for south Wales,

explained there had been a decline in use of the branch by local people.

"The way customers interact and undertake their banking is changing as people are increasingly moving away from traditional branches and using online, telephone and mobile devices for everyday transactions."

"While branches are still an important part of our business, they must reflect how and when our customers are choosing to visit us."

"At Llantwit Major, we have experienced a decline in customer usage on specific days during the week."

"As such, we have made the decision to change our opening hours from February 2 to Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 9.30am – 4pm."

"Our colleagues have been informed about the change and will work at alternative branches on the day the Llantwit Major branch is closed."

He added: "We are committed to delivering a service that is shaped around what our customers want, offering them choice and flexibility, which is why Llantwit Major branch will remain open four days a week."

A £250 boost for Mind in the Vale



LEFT: Lucy Thomas, Pam Percy – volunteer for Mind in the Vale, Lisa Morgan and Menna Jones.

WESTERN VALE MIND was handed a cheque for £250 recently – donated by Lisa Morgan and Lucy Thomas of the Llantwit Major Lantern Parade.

Each year, the lantern parade raises funds for local charities, this year selecting Mind in the Vale of Glamorgan, as well as Valeways and

The Cystic Fibrosis trust.

Menna Jones, senior project worker, commented: "We are very grateful that we were selected by the Lantern Parade committee as one of their charities. We were pleased to work in partnership, getting involved by selling the lanterns at our publicity stall at the Llantwit Major Illuminations event."

Mind in the Vale of Glamorgan provide practical and social support to people experiencing mental health issues in the Vale.

If you would like to access support, get in touch by calling the head office on 01446 730792, Western Vale Mind on 01446 796416 (Monday, Tuesday and Friday) or via their website www.mindinthevale.org.uk.

A journey through time at Dyffryn...

YSTRADOWEN and District WI met at the village hall on February 4 when president Jan Foyle welcomed members.

Speaker Gwerfyl Gardner's subject was Dyffryn and the Cory Family. Gwerfyl has been a house volunteer at Dyffryn for the past 18 months, showing visitors around the house.

In the 16th century, the estate we know as Dyffryn was bought by Sir Thomas Button, an explorer more interested in the land than in erecting a house. It was not until the 18th century that the estate was purchased by the Pryce family and a Georgian House was erected on the land.

A gentleman from Devon named Richard Cory purchased Dyffryn from the Pryce family. He was married to Sarah, was the owner of a small vessel and traded as a ships' chandler in premises situated near the custom house in Cardiff Docks.

He was involved in the development of Cardiff Docks and south Wales collieries. The business was expanded. They were in the right place at the right time. Richard had a house built at Dyffryn, but it was in fact quite a modest residence.

In 1859, Richard retired. His youngest son John became a ship's broker and formed a company, Cory Brothers, with one of his brothers. In 1861, John married and with his wife Anna Maria, had a much more prestigious house built, Vaende Hall in St Mellons, where his family lived.

By 1871, he had purchased collieries and was now both producing and shipping coal around the world. In 1893, the house as we know it today was built at Dyffryn. John died in 1910 and was laid to rest in St Nicholas Churchyard, where there is a monument erected in his honour. His third son, Reginald, was responsible for the gardens we see today.

He was a member of

the Royal Horticultural Society and sourced plants around the world; many of them remain today.

The Cory family have left a wonderful legacy and Dyffryn is a lovely place to visit and to enjoy the gardens in the changing seasons. It is run by the National Trust.

Pam Robbins gave a vote of thanks to Gwerfyl for such an informative talk. Jan later chaired business for the month. Our spring meal is at the Bear Hotel in Cowbridge at lunchtime on Wednesday, February 25; fashion show in the Mumbles on April 29 and visit to the BBC on April 21.

The monthly walk will take place on Wednesday, February 18. The March meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 4 – our speaker will be Patricia Mears Her talk is entitled 'From Craft and Paintings to Help for Heroes'. As always, visitors and new members will be made welcome.

EL

Good old days of teaching!

AT 8.30am, our booked speaker could hardly speak over the phone, let alone to an audience, so our ever resourceful organisers, with the aid of contacts, arranged a talk by Marion Leyton Mathews, an ex-teacher, who came up trumps.

Coming from a working class family in the Rhymney Valley, Marion went to Bargoed Grammar School "because it was mixed and therefore more fun".

Thereafter, she went to college in London at Mory Datchelor College. She found London strange because it was like being a rabbit, disappearing underground all the time!

Returning to Wales, she worked in several schools before settling in the Rhymney Bilateral School, a strange combination of 11-plus pupils who did not get into the other grammar schools in the area and secondary model pupils.

This combination produced its own

COWBRIDGE U3A

interesting dichotomy – the 'grammar teachers' were out of their depth with many pupils and to cap it all, they appointed an Oxbridge (Hons) graduate as head. Very strange that prestige won over common sense.

What followed was an entertaining description of a trip to London, including the usual question to teachers at 9am of "Can I eat my sandwiches now?" to falling in the Thames and two pupils going AWOL.

Risk assessment has killed many exciting experiences in education and, as Marion said, the National Curriculum has moved the goalposts from a whole life experience to a limited one of jumping through exam hoops.

We thank Marion for jumping in at the last minute. This writer spent 19 years teaching in east London, but that's another story!

Next meeting March 11, 2pm Town Hall; 'Tools for Africa' by John Henson.

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Kirsty and Rachel 'get the chop' but all in a great cause



A mother and daughter from St Athan have donated their hair to a charity supporting children suffering from cancer and hair loss.

Kirsty Jones said: "My daughter Rachel and I wanted to help Little Princess Trust."

"We had our long hair cut short to make wigs for children suffering from hair loss due to cancer."

The Little Princess Trust provides real-hair wigs to boys and girls across the UK and Ireland that have lost hair

due to cancer treatment.

Rachel, aged eight, a pupil at St Athan Primary School, and mum Kirsty popped along to The Crop Shop in St Athan.

Kirsty said: "They did a fab job. We donated the hair and raised £158.49 - we're still counting. I would like to thank local businesses and everyone who donated. It was well worth the effort."

"Hopefully, other people will be encouraged to go for the chop too!"

For more information on Little Princess Trust, go to: www.littleprincesses.org.uk.



Town rallies to help Kayti with fundraiser

A charity evening is being held at Llantwit Major Rugby Club this Saturday, February 14, to support a teenager who is undergoing specialist treatment in America.

Kayti Spargo, aged 16, has been diagnosed with 'rhabdomyosarcoma' a form of cancer commonly known as RMS.

Kayti and her family now live in England, but she grew up in the town, and her dad Nick, a fireman, is Llantwit born and bred.

Doctors decided she needed 'proton beam therapy' which meant she and her mother Lynda, a teacher, had to fly from her family home in Melton Mowbray to the Proton Therapy Institute in Jacksonville, Florida.

During the 'proton process' Kayti has continued her chemotherapy at the nearby Wolfson Children's Hospital. It has meant 10 weeks in a foreign country, to undergo experimental treatment - while being away from her siblings, relatives, friends, and dogs.

Nick told The GEM: "The proton treatment is due to finish this week, but she will continue with chemotherapy."

"She has been struggling a bit - the proton treatment attacks her mouth, throat and ears, and has been very uncomfortable, but she refuses painkillers. She's been sleeping quite a lot recently."

"Despite everything, she still manages to smile. She is very

by GEM
REPORTER



Kayti Spargo.

positive and has written a book and wants to study English at Cambridge."

Nick said he and the family were looking forward to meeting everybody at Llantwit Rugby Club on Saturday night.

"I want to thank all the family and friends who have helped us."

Kayti and her mother hope to return to the United Kingdom on February 23.

You can make donations to support Kayti by credit or debit card by going to: <https://kaytispargo.com>.

There are some great prizes at the fundraising event, including tickets for the Wales Rugby World Cup warm-up match against Ireland, and the free use of a Citroen car for a weekend.

The charity evening is this Saturday, February 14, at Llantwit Major Rugby Club from 7pm until late. Live band, auction and prizes, photo booth, burgers, hotdogs - and £5 entrance on the door.

Solar farm plan: VILLAGERS TO FIGHT IT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

She added that the developers would also need to bring in a 40-tonne crane, and that all this traffic would do considerable damage to grass verges and watercourses that are frequently near the narrow roads.

She said that the developers offer to make things right when they left was missing the point. She said: "These water courses are a vital part of the flood defence system to allow surface water from the lanes and fields either side to drain away. The verges are mainly narrow, soft and sloping".

She said that part of Treoes is officially registered as being in a 'high risk C2 flood zone' and that the report to be considered by Vale councillors at the planning meeting only comments on the actual risk of flooding to the fields allocated for the project.

She argued that water with debris cascades down the hill from Court Farm every year and floods the area and there was great concern over any work that would increase the flow of water.

She said: "We learn that hedgerows will be removed. The whole 12-acre area will be disturbed to facilitate the build, 20,000 metal pylons be put into the ground, 8,976 panels will create partial shade of land."

"This will lead to reduced vegetation, soil erosion leading to even more water and debris flowing into the road".

In line with their chosen name, SOLAR are also concerned about the loss of agricultural land. Gina Moore said: "The 12 acres of land is described as grade 3a, which is good quality capable of sustaining crops and sheep grazing."

"It is one of three top grades, is referred to as 'best and most versatile' and should enjoy significant protection from development."

"We believe the tide is turning for such developments. They are not economically viable, they only exist because of government subsidies. Only the landowner and German promoter win!"

Vale MP Alun Cairns said: "I have been contacted by a number of residents expressing concerns about

the development.

"Issues have been raised about the scale of the scheme and any potential impact on the local community. The solar farm being sited in an area that could be prone to flooding is an issue that should be considered, and I will continue to monitor the progress of the application."

Vale AM Jane Hutt said: "I have been contacted by the Treoes SOLAR Group who have expressed to me particular concerns about this proposal, which I am raising with the Vale Council on their behalf."

However, the Vale Council said that no decision had been made about construction traffic. When the application comes before the Vale Council, and that is likely to be March or April, council officers will recommend approval or rejection, but nothing has been decided yet.

The council's operational manager for development control, Marcus Goldsworthy, said: "The application for the installation of a solar farm was registered in January and is currently under consideration."

"As part of the processing of the application, and prior to any determination, a full assessment of all material issues including highway safety, access and visual impact will be undertaken."

"The council cannot comment on any specific promises which may have been made by the developer to local residents prior to them submitting the planning application, but it can be confirmed that the Highway Authority have yet to comment on this planning application."

The solar farm application is being handled by CDN Planning of Swansea.

Senior planner Matthew Hard said: "We have been working for Sybac on this project for nearly 12 months and we are confident that the proposed solar farm will have minimal visual impact on the local area and will make a positive contribution to meeting the Government's targets for generating electricity from renewable sources and help to address the causes and consequences of climate change."

He told The GEM that sheep would continue to graze in the field, and that extra hedgerows would be created that would more than make up for any that would be lost.

He added that discussions with the Vale Council over the transport issues were "still ongoing".

Asked about flooding issues, he said: "We will be preparing a report on flooding and that will be given to Natural Resources Wales, so that it can make an assessment before the planning committee meets."

Treasurer stole £16,000 from local rugby club

THE treasurer of Llantwit Major RFC has appeared at Cardiff Crown Court and admitted pocketing more than £16,000 of the club's cash, writes AJ SICILUNA.

Diane Roberts, 33, of Denbigh Drive, Boverton, admitted a charge of fraud between March 2012 and November 2013 in which she abused her position of treasurer of the club by making unauthorised payments to her personal bank account.

Roberts wept throughout the short hearing, denied a further charge of fraud and two of dishonestly acquiring criminal property. It was directed that those charges lie on the file.

Sentence was adjourned until March 19 for the preparation of a social inquiry report and she was remanded on bail.

'Reduced speed limit would be safer'

IN response to your article on this matter I agree strongly that a reduced speed limit is needed in Cowbridge particularly on Eastgate Street from the town hall up to the traffic lights.

The speed at which traffic travels on this street is totally unacceptable and should be reduced to 20 mph and enforced.

Also, I live on Broadway near the Welsh school and the speed of traffic on this stretch of Broadway to the start of the hill down into Llanblethian is ridiculous in many cases.

It is particularly irresponsible because of all the children going to and from both primary schools. Again a 20 mph limit should be imposed. Neville John, Cowbridge.

Fire brought under control at Leekes store

AT approximately 12.30pm on Wednesday, February 4 a small fire broke out in the bathroom studio at Leekes of Llantrisant.

Thanks to the efforts of three members of staff and the fire service who were on the scene within 15 minutes, damage to the store was minimal and both staff and customers were swiftly evacuated to safety.

The store remained closed on February 5 as a precautionary measure and to undertake the clean-up operation. Normal service was resumed the following day.

Back on line at Llantrithyd



THE Vale MP Alun Cairns has welcomed news that broadband and phone services were restored to Llantrithyd, following the loss of service for two weeks, after a telegraph pole was hit by a vehicle.

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Prison sentence is 'on the cards' for golfing benefit cheat

A CHAMPION golfer who claimed he was severely disabled, has been convicted at Cardiff Crown Court of carrying out a £26,000 fraud.

Department of Work and Pensions investigators took part in a surveillance on 56-year-old Alan Bannister at St Andrew's Major Golf Club.

It followed an anonymous tip-off.

For eight years, Bannister had been receiving the higher benefit allowance for people with severe mobility problems.

He said he was suffering from ankylosing spondylitis.

Following the three-day trial, Bannister, a former mechanical engineer with no

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

previous convictions, of Barry Road, Barry, was found guilty of obtaining money transfers by deception.

Prosecutor Stuart McLeese said Bannister had made dishonest representations about the extent of his disability.

"That he suffers from the illness was not in dispute, but he failed to record the full effects when filling in claim forms."

Bannister had claimed that he could walk only 50 yards without experiencing severe discomfort, and it took him at least 15 minutes.

Thus, said Mr McLeese, at that rate, a round of golf was taking him 18 hours to complete, and not the four hours it actually

took.

Bannister told the jury that his condition varied and it was bad on some days, and better on others. He agreed he played golf frequently and had a handicap of six, which indicated he was a good golfer.

In the past, he said he had suffered from depression because of his condition.

"I'm a fighter, and I will fight it," he said.

He said that in 2002 he had to give up work because of his illness.

Not working, he said, devastated him. He took several different types of drugs and was in extreme pain.

He denied that he was "a freeloader and a malingering" and he denied lying when making a benefits claim.

He also said that sometimes he suffered pain from his "big toe to the top of his head".

Never, he added, had he exaggerated his symptoms.

He claimed he was encouraged to play and on the day he was filmed, he was in severe pain.

"Being on the course gave me relief. I can't stand being in the house."

He also said he went around the course on a "stop-start basis".

His counsel, David Leathley, said it was "a disgrace" that Bannister had been prosecuted.

He will be sentenced on March 12 and Recorder David Miller said: "All the sentence options are open, and I have to say that prison is on the cards."

He was remanded on bail.

WITH VALENTINE'S DAY ON THE WAY... it's time to think of Welsh Hearts!

A defibrillator is now located at Cowbridge Town Hall.

On January 17, Liz Evans and members of the Welsh Hearts charity undertook a training session in the town hall.

Also present was Brian Thomas of the Masons, Dr Gareth Rees a trustee of Welsh Hearts and Sharon Owen, its chief executive.

Liz is the area trainer for Welsh Hearts, a charity that has presented over 400 defibrillators in the last 18 months.

Defibrillators have also gone to Llantwit RFC, St Athan and Llanmaes.

Liz, who has gone back to college to study for a diploma in health



From left to right, Brian Thomas of the Masons, Dr Gareth Rees Welsh Hearts trustee, Sharon Owen the chief executive of Welsh Hearts, and Liz Evans the local trainer.

care and works for the Welsh Ambulance Service, is holding a training session for First Responders in the community hall in Llanmaes on Wednesday, March 4, from 7pm til 9pm.

People are welcome to attend if they want to refresh their life-saving skills or are interested in volunteering.

First Responders have been holding a number of meetings in the Vale recently to explain the

role to potential volunteers – on January 22 a recruitment evening was held at the Boverton Castle.

For more information on Welsh Hearts, go to: <http://welshhearts.org/>

From Cardiff to Paris... to support injured Owen



Wales and England were in perfect harmony during a fundraiser for the #StayStrongForOws campaign. From left to right England's Stuart Lancaster and Will Carling, Wales' coach Warren Gatland and Welsh legend Jonathan Davies. PICTURE FROM THE HUW EVANS AGENCY

Report by TIM CHAPMAN

TWO local men aim to raise funds for seriously injured Welsh rugby international Owen Williams by cycling the 320 miles from Cardiff to Paris.

Matthew Lewis from Barry Island and James Donne from Canton were keen to boost Owen's recovery from a serious spinal injury which was sustained in a Blues' club match last year against Asia Pacific Dragons.

Owen (23) was initially treated in Singapore before being flown back to Wales and the Welsh Spinal Injuries and Neurological Rehabilitation Unit at Rookwood Hospital.

James explained: "Matthew and I aim to raise funds by riding from Cardiff to Paris this summer, along with players, sponsors and friends of the Cardiff Blues rugby team."

"Last June, Owen injured his cervical vertebrae and spinal cord and lost the movement in the upper and lower portions of his body."

"Due to the excellent level of care he has received at Rookwood



ABOVE: Owen Williams of Wales and The Blues.

Hospital, he has gained good movement in his left arm and slight movement in his right."

Owen remains at the hospital while he continues his long term rehabilitation and recovery.

Among the Blues' players taking part in the cycle ride will be Cory Allen from Barry.

James said: "On June 3, we will start the ride from 'BT Sport Cardiff Arms Park'. It is 320 miles and will take four days."

"We'll be stopping at various rugby clubs and social venues along the way, and will end by riding right up to the Eiffel Tower in Paris!"

"Matthew and I would be hugely grateful for any help given with the ride, whether it is donations, or help in



ABOVE: James (left) and Matthew will cycle from Cardiff to Paris to support Welsh international Owen Williams.

spreading news of our campaign, through tweets or 'shares' on social media, or just word of mouth."

The lads have set up a just giving page: www.justgiving.co.uk/JDML.

Matthew added: "If people donate, please tick the 'Gift Aid' box, because we will then receive 25p for every pound donated."

A total of £36,000 was raised at a special lunch held at 'BT Sport Cardiff Arms Park' ahead of the Wales v England clash with special guests including Wales' coach Warren Gatland and England coach Stuart Lancaster. More than 500 guests attended the event.

To keep up to speed as to how Owen is getting on, go to: www.StayStrongForOws.com.

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VALE BUILDING EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2015 – AND A DONATION IN MEMORY OF ADRIAN

THE twelfth Vale of Glamorgan Council Building Control Group 'Building Excellence Awards' were held at The Vale Resort, Golf Club, Hensol on January 30.

The evening was attended by the Leader of the Council, Coun Neil Moore, Coun Anne Moore, Coun Frederick Johnson, chairman of the planning committee, and the Mayor of the Vale Coun Howard Hamilton and Mayoress Coun Carol Hamilton.

The event also raised funds for Marie Curie, Penarth, in memory of Adrian Cook who worked as a paramedic.

The night was also attended by Rob Thomas, director of Development Services for the Vale Council, and the Building Control team together with the sponsors of the event: the Mount Sorrel Hotel, Jan Irving of the Glamorgan GEM, Nina and Rob Chivers of Nina Estate Agents, Paul and Helen Thomas of ACD Recycling & Skip Hire and GreenBuild Consult.

The evening was hosted by Marcus Goldsworthy operational manager for Development and Building Control at the Vale Council who explained: "The nominations in every category were of the very highest quality and I congratulate all the winners who now have the chance to compete against the winners from other councils in south Wales in the 'South Wales Building Excellence' awards 2015 which will be held at the Vale of Glamorgan Hotel and Spa Resort, Hensol, on April 17, hosted by Owen Money.

"I am also hopeful that some of these schemes will go forward to the 'Building Excellence Award' national finals, which will be held in London in November 20, especially as we were lucky enough to have a national winner in 2013.

"The awards have shown the quality of work that is being undertaken throughout the Vale of Glamorgan and we are proud to be rewarding and encouraging quality in the construction industry."

The award winners that now go forward to the south Wales event are:

Extension/alteration to a dwelling – AdHoc Design & Build Limited for the extension and renovations at 21, Robinswood Close, Penarth.

Best Conversion – Mr. Colin Anstee for the holiday lets at Willow Cottage, Treoes.

Best Small Commercial – Chris Lakin for the conversion at Highlight Farm, to holiday lets.

Best Individual Dwelling – WRW for the new dwelling at Afryn House, Cowbridge.

Best Small Developer – Brickflair with Hoole & Walmsley Architects for Old Farm Mews, Dinas Powys.

Best Large Developer – Taylor Wimpey Developments South Wales for the development at Scholars View, Cowbridge.

Best Education Building – Leadbitter Bouyges for the 'Super School – Penarth Learning Centre', Penarth.

Best Craftsmanship – Lee Ford, M & L Construction (Cardiff) Limited, for the New Dwelling at Ty Coch, St. Brides Super Ely.

Best Site Surveyor of the Year – Rob Boyd from ISG for the New Educational Building – Ysgol Nant Talwg, Barry.

The council said it wished all of the above schemes good luck in progressing to the national award finals.

A spokeswoman for the awards said: "Our thanks must also go out to the sponsors, who have enabled the event to be firmly placed in the Vale's diary – Nina Estate Agents, the Glamorgan GEM, ACD Skip and Recycling, GreenBuild Consult, Durisol and Jewson of Barry.

"The evening also raised over £870 on the night for the Cardiff and Vale Hospice, known as Holme Towers in memory of Adrian Cook from Barry."

Adrian's wife Helene said: "Adrian was diagnosed with cancer on September 16, 2014.

"He had a turbulent time throughout his short battle with this dreadful disease.

"He went to Holme Towers in early January for some respite from his continued sickness.

"We were instantly welcomed into the Holme Towers family.

"During his stay he spent five settled days feeling comfortable and relaxed.

"The whole staff were a joy – always at hand with treatment, compassion and a shoulder to cry on.

"I cannot express enough the fantastic work done by all those involved and I am grateful to Building Control and all those who donated on our behalf.

"Adrian's condition declined rapidly, but he was never in pain and was supported and reassured throughout.

"He sadly passed away on February 1 in the early hours."

Adrian's funeral will take place at The Chapel on Windsor Road at 10.30am Tuesday, February 17. If people so wish, the family would welcome donations to Marie Curie instead of sending flowers.



ABOVE: The award for 'Best Large Developer' Taylor Wimpey Developments South Wales for the development at Scholars View, Cowbridge.



Vale Council Leader Neil Moore presented the award for 'Best Education Building' to Leadbitter Bouyges for the 'Super School – Penarth Learning Centre', Penarth.

ABOVE: 'Best Individual Dwelling' winner was WRW for the new dwelling at Afryn House, Cowbridge.



ABOVE: Winner for 'Best Small Commercial', Chris Lakin for the conversion at Highlight Farm to holiday lets.



ABOVE: The 'Best Small Developer' was Brickflair with Hoole & Walmsley Architects for Old Farm Mews, Dinas Powys.



ABOVE: The 'Best Site Surveyor of the Year' was Rob Boyd from ISG for the new educational building – Ysgol Nant Talwg, Barry.



ABOVE: The 'Best Conversion', Mr. Colin Anstee, for the holiday lets at Willow Cottage, Treoes.



ABOVE: The winner for 'Best Craftsmanship' went to Lee Ford c/o M & L Construction (Cardiff) Limited for the new dwelling at Ty Coch, St. Brides Super Ely.

EXCELLENCE IN DESIGN AND BUILDING IS HIGHLIGHTED IN VALE'S ANNUAL AWARDS



ABOVE:
Winner for 'Extension/Alteration to a Dwelling', AdHoc Design & Build Limited, for the extension and renovations at 21, Robinswood Close, Penarth.

The Building Control Group ensures constructions of high quality in the Vale and there were categories for winners, those 'highly commended' and for 'commended'.



'Bridge engineers should match Japanese efficiency'

WITH reference to the planned closure of the B4265 road at Ewenny for the replacement of the road bridge over the Vale railway line.

1. I am surprised that the residents and business people of St Brides were apparently caught unawares by the planned (now postponed) closure. It was advertised in the local press well before Christmas 2014.

2. As someone who commutes daily to Bridgend, I travel on this road by preference, as the standards of driving exhibited on the alternative route via the A48 are abysmal and continue to worsen.

I am in turn surprised that this work should need five months to complete. Surely the bridge structure which

is being replaced will be pre-fabricated beforehand in one or more sections and then placed into position by crane. So assuming that any re-modelling of the approach roads to the bridge could be undertaken by selectively closing one of the carriageways – at least for most of the work – then the time needed to actually close the road could be drastically reduced, potentially to weekends or overnight periods?

Compare the approach of this work with the work undertaken in Japan following the devastation to

infrastructure caused by the tsunami. They were able to replace complex road infrastructures in days. Surely we can match the project management and engineering expertise shown by the Japanese here in the UK?

Closing this road for five months will cause major disruption due to the alternative routes being offered – much of the traffic that uses these roads consists of HGV vehicles – and will have a real impact on the people who live in the Vale and use that road as part of their daily lives.
Nick Meyrick,
Barry.

HISTORY TALK

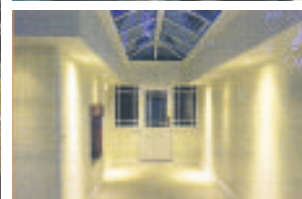
A TALK entitled 'Our Planet' will be presented by Carl Fisher at Penarth Local History Society at 7.30pm this evening, February 12 at All Saints' Church Lesser Hall, Penarth. New members welcome. For further details, contact Brian Fisher on 02920 514500, or Michael Gandy on 02920 700211.



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'Food hygiene scores must be displayed'

INSISTS COUNCIL LEADER

PLAID CYMRU councillor for Barry town centre, Coun Ian Johnson, has expressed his disappointment that a BBC programme uncovered some Barry takeaways failing to display food hygiene scores.

Coun Johnson said he has raised the issue twice in full council, including in a debate about the effectiveness of monitoring regulations that merged Vale services with those in Cardiff and Bridgend.

Coun Johnson said: "It obviously makes it much worse that those least likely to have their scores on the doors are those with the worst ratings."

"Clearly action has not been taken by the council to ensure that these businesses follow the law."

"The Vale was targeted for this by the BBC because we have a lot of takeaways with very low scores, including a number that are zero from five – the worst possible score."

"Unfortunately, it seems as if the Vale Council's attention has been focused on merging regulatory services with Cardiff and Bridgend and cutting costs rather than on making sure the Vale public gets the health and safety that we deserve."

"I hope that takeaways with low scores will work with the council to improve their food hygiene scores."

Poor scores can't be good for business, and they're not good for public health either."

Council Leader Neil Moore said the Vale Council was taking action on the matter and that residents should feel free to contact the council if they saw businesses failing to comply with regulations.

"Food hygiene scores must be clearly visible outside food businesses. Following X-Ray's investigation we are now taking enforcement action against these businesses for failing to display theirs."

Coun Moore went on: "There are over 1,200 food businesses in the Vale of Glamorgan and the cases highlighted by X-Ray demonstrate the great challenge that monitoring and enforcing food hygiene standards in the county presents."

"We would urge our residents to report to us any food businesses that are not displaying an FSA rating so that we can take enforcement action more swiftly."

"Equally, if Coun Johnson is aware of premises failing to display their ratings, I would encourage him to report these to the public protection team, which, following the development of a new shared regional service, will in future have greater resources, and resilience, to enforce food hygiene standards across the county."

ITV series takes a stroll through Vale



Phil Gibbins from Valeways shares his thoughts about the area's shipwrecks with Andrew Price (right).

THE new series of ITV Cymru Wales' countryside series Coast & Country begins this Friday when presenter Andrew Price visits the Vale.

He walks from Monkash to Nash Point, and meets Phil Gibbins, from local walking charity Valeways, who shares the history of the area's shipwrecks.

He discovers how new technology is bringing the history of the Heritage Coast alive, before visiting Nash Point lighthouse and learning how it's keeping up with the times.

Andrew also pops into the Plough & Harrow in Monkash to discover its links with the ships that sank along this rugged coastline.

Jazz festival support plea

I AM again writing to ask for the support of GEM readers to help us deliver a jazz festival in the Vale.

We need to raise £8,000 for the event to happen in June and we are applying to the Arts Council of Wales for funding support.

Please help us make this event happen by emailing the Arts Council at information@artscouncilofwales.org.uk or by writing to them – FAO Lowri, Arts Council of Wales, Bute Place, Cardiff, CF10 5AL.
Coun Richard Bertin, Barry.

PACT meetings

STANWELL PACT at The Pod, St Lukes Avenue, Penarth on Friday, February 13 at 7pm.

ILLTYD PACT at Aberthaw House Hotel, Porthkerry Road, Barry on Monday, February 23, at 3pm.

RHOOSE coffee and chat will be held at The Fox and Hounds, Llanrcarfan, on Tuesday, February 24 at 11am.

DYFAN PACT at The Buttrills Community Centre, North Walk, Barry, on Sunday, March 1, at 7.30pm.

GIBBONS DOWN PACT at Barry Rugby Club, Merthyr Dyfan Road, Barry, on Monday, March 2, at 7pm.

PLYMOUTH PACT at Byrd Crescent Community Centre on Wednesday, March 4, at 6.30pm.

'Kick rugby touts out of play' – CALL

WITH the Rugby Six Nations tournament under way, Labour's candidate for the Vale, Chris Elmore, has called on the Government to drop their opposition to tackling ticket touting.

"The Six Nations is one of the most exciting tournaments in sport and here in Wales, international rugby is part of our national identity."

"With some tickets being advertised by touts for as much as 35 times their original value, ordinary fans are being priced out of the game we all love," he pointed out.

"The Culture Secretary says he

"has no problem" with rip-off ticket prices. Last month, his Government refused point blank to clamp down on such abuses.

"Labour is backing the changes and the 'put fans first' campaign. It's time we kicked the touts into touch and made sure that regular fans have access to tickets for some of our greatest sporting events."

The House of Lords will debate this issue again in the Consumer Rights Bill on February 24. However, at present, the Government continues to oppose action on touting and no new proposals have been published to date, Mr Elmore added.

Vale Council to charge for 'bulky items' collection

IN a move that it says brings it into line with other Welsh councils, the Vale Council said it can no longer provide bulky item waste collections free of charge to all customers.

A council spokesman said: "Currently every authority in Wales, except the Isle of Anglesey, levy charges for bulky item collections, and while the Vale's scheme will be different to most others, in that it will offer concessions for those who are less able to pay, charges are scheduled to be introduced from April 1 this year."

Bulky item collections will be charged at £15 for up to three items, with each additional item charged at £5, up to a maximum of five items.

Residents will still be able to take bulky household items to either of the council's two household waste recycling centres free of charge.

Residents who are eligible for a concession will receive two free collections of up to six items in any one year.

Charges are also to be introduced to cover the costs of the provision or replacement of recycling boxes and caddies, similar to those currently in place for reusable green and blue bags.

Also, in an effort to both limit the amount of food wasted and to recover the costs of any bags being used for dog fouling, charges will be introduced for additional kitchen waste bags, over an appropriate free allocation per week, and dog waste bags.

Residents who take part in the kerbside food waste recycling scheme will be issued with rolls of bags

sufficient to permit the waste from three full kitchen caddies to be recycled per week. Additional bags will be available by the roll at a price equivalent to 4p per bag.

The council's blue dog bags will be charged at £1 for 50.

To help address incidences of higher than average use of the council's household waste recycling facilities at Barry and Llandow, £15 permits are to be introduced for vans and trailers using the sites. This is similar to the arrangements in place at many other local authorities and still provides excellent value for money when compared to other alternatives such as the hire of skips, said a council spokesman.

The measures agreed by cabinet are estimated to save the council almost £270,000 per annum.

However, for Plaid Cymru, Coun Ian Johnson argued that it could be a false economy.

He said: "As a local councillor in a busy town centre, I regularly contact the Vale's visible services department to report rubbish that has been dumped on street corners or in back lanes, and they answer as quickly as possible to remove them."

"I'm worried that introducing a charge for household furniture collection, such as sofas, fridges and the like, could take us in the wrong direction if a minority of people decide it is easier and cheaper to dump them rather than pay this £15 charge."

"If this policy makes the streets less tidy and still costs the council to remove them, then these charges will be a waste of time for the council."

Plea for councillors to think about how sports funding should be allocated locally

The allocation of over £500,000 for the development of sports facilities is a golden opportunity for the Vale Council to secure the future of children's participation in football, say co-ordinators of the Vale of Glamorgan Football League.

They told The GEM that council sports money must benefit the whole community not just Jenner Park, and want the council to think carefully before allocating the money.

League organisers say that councillors have quoted a list of current multi-court venues, but say that some of the locations are dangerous, with poor access, little parking provision and too small for junior football.

Over 1,000 children participate weekly across the mini and junior football leagues in the Vale, and the organisers claim that all-weather 3G facilities would help sustain participation of children across all ages and abilities.

Wes Drew, one of the league co-ordinators, said: "This isn't just about helping the best

kids develop. Football helps children of all abilities develop in many ways beyond the pitch."

"We have had kids with disabilities – who would get bullied and suffer in school – come through our teams and develop the confidence to take on the challenges in their lives. But we need the facilities to make this happen."

The mini leagues suffered a nine week layoff over the winter period, with games being called off due to unplayable pitches.

Lee Saunders, another league co-ordinator, said: "The council talks a lot about stopping bullying, tackling childhood obesity, and helping sports clubs to flourish."

"If they are going to act on these aims then money for facilities like this needs to go towards the community at large, and not just one venue where community use would be limited to athletics, Welsh league games and training."

"The decision they have to make is whether they want to help the 1,000 or more children/adults who play in the Vale league or have a stadium that will be rarely accessible to grassroots clubs."

Derek Evans, the

coach at Rhose Athletic, added: "The need for a football hub at Barry Sports Centre is key for the growth of football in the area. At present, with nearly a two month lay-off through bad weather and unplayable pitches, we are losing children to the console generation due to lack of games."

The organisers are calling on the council to use the money for new 3G pitches and facilities in Colcot, allowing one of the most deprived areas in the Vale to have a place for people across the county to come together and participate in local sports.



Roller skating club's long trek for competition

GLAMORGAN Artistic Roller Skating Club's team of competition skaters, Lara Goodwin, Kaitlin Daly, Bethany Daly, Ewan Maxwell, Erin Maxwell, Katie Vaughan, Michael Vaughan, Maya Archampong, Charley Griffith and Molly Griffith attended their first competition of the year in Herne Bay.

After a long drive of over five hours, the skaters competed against

clubs from all over the UK and they were the only Welsh team at the event.

The competition attracts the highest calibre of skaters so they had their work cut out. Each skater performed well, improving greatly on their results from last year, with Ewan Maxwell gaining second place in his event.

The club are now back in training for their next competition later this month and hope to be sending a team of skaters to the championships later in the year.

The club has been running for almost five years now and the coaches are extremely pleased with the progress that they have made.

The club session is held on a Tuesday, 6pm – 8pm at Colcot Sports Centre.

Anyone interested in joining should contact 07517 854453 for further information.

VALE MP's VIEWPOINT FAIRGROUND BOOST FOR BARRY ISLAND

GEM readers will be aware of the priority to regenerate Barry Island.

It is a fantastic resort that deserves to be revitalised. It once attracted a quarter of a million visitors a day at its peak at the turn of the last century. A new fairground facility is within our grasp.

The Island has a magnificent natural resource and a number of small businesses that provide leisure, catering and amusements to many visitors. A major new attraction would provide a welcome boost to all concerned.

I have been working with the landowner for many months and am delighted that Britain's most respected showman, Henry Danter, is keen to invest in Barry. He wants to build a new year round facility on Barry Island.

Henry runs two other fairgrounds in the UK; one at Stourport-on-Severn and another at Symonds Yat. They are first class examples of how a fairground should be run. All are maintained to the highest standards.

He has a record of continuous investment and refreshing rides on a regular basis and wants to invest tens of millions of pounds.

This has the potential of making Barry Island a major regional tourism centre again.

I am doing all possible to help facilitate an agreement between the Barry Island Property Company and Henry Danter. If there is ever a time when an arrangement can be won, it is now. The economy is growing strongly, people's



ALUN CAIRNS
reports to GEM readers

spending power is increasing and all indicators suggest that the public are ready to spend more money on leisure over the coming years. The relevant authorities also have a major part to play.

As part of the discussions with the local community, I was anxious that local interest groups express a view. Representatives of Focus Barry and Pride in Barry have attended a number of meetings with both the developer and fairground operator. All have responded positively, which is great news.

Local traders are also in support. After all, a first class fairground facility will bring more and more customers to the businesses that are based at the resort. More jobs will be created and those small operators will have a more funds to reinvest as a result.

Huge challenges remain and we can't take anything for granted. I fear that losing this opportunity could lead to a derelict site for another decade or longer.

I want us to get to a position where everyone wins: the community, visitors, local residents and traders.

Grazing in coastal field at Cwm Colhuw Nature Reserve

THE Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales' Cwm Colhuw Nature Reserve, lying 1km southwest of Llantwit Major, is a mix of grassland and coastal scrub offering a refuge for wildlife that struggles to cling on in areas of intensively farmed habitat.

The grassland habitat is particularly unusual in that it is relatively undisturbed. In fact, it has suffered from a lack of management in recent years, becoming dominated by tussocky grasses which shade out more delicate flowering plants.

Due to the location of the site, it is difficult to get hay-making machinery up there to manage the grassland, so in recent years ponies have been doing a good job grazing the inland field, with colourful waxcap fungi emerging along with more flowering plants than previously.

The coastal field has not, until now, been

grazed, due to the inability to keep ponies enclosed there. Because of the site's status as a scheduled ancient monument, Cadw's permission has to be sought before the installation of new infrastructure, such as gates and fences.

This permission has now been received and at the start of February work began on installing a new gate at the entrance to the coastal field which will allow ponies to be moved into the field in the next few weeks.

There will only be a few animals and they are friendly, but we do advise walkers entering the field to keep their dogs under control as there is a small risk that loose dogs could cause the ponies to panic.

Hopefully, the action of the ponies grazing will enhance visitors' enjoyment of the nature reserve while also improving the biodiversity status of the site. Contact Vaughn: v.matthews@welshwildlife.org.

Vaughn Matthews
(Conservation officer)

THE VALE NEEDS TO KNOW WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

RESPONDING to a question on local government reorganisation in south Wales an Assembly Member has accused the Labour Government of leaving the Vale and its residents in limbo.

Eluned Parrott AM asked the Minister for Public Services, Labour's Leighton Andrews, about the future of the Vale post any local government reorganisation.

Ms Parrott, Welsh Liberal Democrat AM for South Wales Central, which includes the Vale, said: "The Labour Government has freely admitted that Cardiff Council can survive on

its own with a current population of 330,000, yet at the same time has blocked plans by the Vale Council to merge with Bridgend, saying it would prefer Bridgend to merge with Neath Port Talbot Council.

"Where does this leave the Vale? It isn't allowed to look west to Bridgend and it has been confirmed that Cardiff's ambition to stand alone is perfectly viable.

"The longer this question is left unanswered the more

uncertainty will be created. Ultimately, the people of the Vale want to know who is going to be running their services now and in the future.

"We were told by the Welsh Labour Government that local government reorganisation was the key to delivering modern services across Wales more efficiently. At a time when budgets are stretched and many services are at risk, this is the time for strong leadership from Labour in Cardiff Bay."

Speak on planning

FROM this month, members of the public can register to speak at council planning committee meetings.

See council website
www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/planningcommittee, or call 01446 709144 for further information.

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Vale children's hospice is thrilled with new kitchen



PICTURED: James Sommerin, David Kelman, Julia McCarthy, David Haines-Knight, Stephen Terry and Hywel Jones.

EVER since Ty Hafan opened in 1999, the kitchen and dining area has been a hive of activity and is described by families and staff as the 'hub' of the building.

Whether families are enjoying a home-made cooked meal or a member of staff is having a comforting cup of tea, it has always been a well-loved area. But, after 15 years of use, the kitchen had started looking tired and in need of an upgrade.

Today, the kitchen has been completely transformed thanks to tireless fundraising by the public and donations from local businesses. The £140,000 refurbishment offers state-of-the-art catering facilities,

opportunities for cookery therapy and a separate domestic kitchen specifically designed to provide families with greater independence while resident at the hospice.

Jayne Saunders, director of care at Ty Hafan, said: "We aim to create a homely atmosphere for our families which is why the new kitchen is a wonderful addition to the hospice. The refurbishment provides a positive and uplifting environment and the feedback we've had from families has been fantastic."

"We are delighted with the new kitchen and can't thank our supporters enough for making it happen."

The impressive kitchen boasts brand new equipment, including top-of-the-range ovens and fridges, a new store room and a

separate, smaller kitchen for parents and families to enjoy.

B&M Stores, Dow Corning, Next, Ray of Light Trust, Sigma 3, St James's Place Foundation, RWE Npower, Wallace and Gromit Foundation and Zurich Community Trust have all made contributions to the kitchen refurbishment.

Four top chefs who took part in Chefs' Night Out – a gala dinner which raised £125,000 for the cause last weekend – enjoyed a visit to Ty Hafan and were incredibly impressed with the new kitchen when they decorated cakes with children and families.

It costs £3.7m a year to provide the charity's state-of-the-art facilities at Sully and its support services to families out in the community. To make a donation please visit www.tyhafan.org.

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STEVEDORES FINED FOR WORKER'S SEVERE INJURIES

A GLAMORGAN stevedoring company has been fined for breaking safety legislation, after an employee suffered severe leg injuries in falling from a trailer.

Turning derelict houses into homes gets boost

A SCHEME to help turn 1,115 empty private sector properties into homes in Cardiff, the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Merthyr has received a funding boost as part of a new £20 million Welsh Government investment to improve housing stock.

Communities and Tackling Poverty Minister Lesley Griffiths AM has announced the home improvement loans and houses into homes schemes will each receive £10 million to bring many derelict and uninhabitable properties back into use.

A recent report showed an increase in

the number of empty private sector properties brought back into use across Wales. To date, 4,471 empty and run-down properties have been turned into homes so far this Assembly term, only 529 short of the Welsh Government's ambitious 5,000 target for the whole term, which runs until May 2016. Houses into Homes has played a big part in helping to achieve this.

National strategic indicators show that 1,115 empty private sector properties in Cardiff, the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Merthyr, have been turned into homes so far during this Assembly term - Vale 460, Bridgend 146, RCT 216, Cardiff 210, and Merthyr 83.

Nigel Preece (58) of Pyle, Bridgend, was unloading steel coils from a flatbed trailer when he fell 1.3 metres, sustaining two broken legs.

Mr Preece's employer, Briton Ferry Stevedoring, appeared before Swansea Magistrates on February 4 in a prosecution brought by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) following the incident.

The court heard that Mr Preece had to stand on the trailer and feed a lifting strap through the centre of the coils so they could be taken off the vehicle. After lifting a coil, he replaced the loose board on the trailer floor which covered the well used to hold the coil in place during transport.

On this occasion, the board was not properly placed and when Mr Preece stood on it, the board moved causing him to lose his balance and fall off the trailer, breaking both his legs above the knee.

He had to undergo a 10-and-a-half hour operation and was treated in intensive care for one week. He was unable to walk for three months without support, and it was six months before he could walk unaided.

An investigation by HSE found the company had failed to make sure the work was carried out safely, or that there were measures in place to prevent or reduce the effects of any fall.

Briton Ferry Stevedoring Ltd of Giants Wharf, Briton Ferry, pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and was fined £13,000 and ordered to pay costs of £1,497.

HSE Inspector, Steve Richardson, speaking after the hearing, said: "Mr Preece suffered extreme pain and serious injuries and could have lost his life, because his employer did not take simple measures to plan, manage or control the work he was asked to carry out.

"Falls from height are the biggest cause of workplace deaths and there is no excuse for employers failing to safeguard workers who have to work at height."

Further information about working safely at height can be found on the HSE website at www.hse.gov.uk/falls.

'Make a pledge to preserve our heritage'



PS Waverley, formerly PS Barry.

THE news item 'Appeal for pledges to secure part of Barry's heritage' in The GEM of February 5, tells the remarkable story of artifacts from the paddle steamer Barry, recovered by a diver from the bottom of the North Sea, where the steamer was bombed and sunk on July 5, 1941.

The photograph (above) of the Barry, by then renamed Waverley, was taken in the 1930s.

It would be splendid if these historic items from Barry's 'own' paddle steamer were to be on display in the town.

I hope that many will feel able to make a

small contribution to their purchase.

At present, pledges are being taken and our family business, the Silver Star Decorating and DIY store on Barry Docks, has made an initial pledge of £25.

Pledges can be made to:

kgmaritime.research@gmail.com or those not online are welcome to send a brief note to me and I will forward them to Mr JT Greenway, who is leading the effort to raise the necessary funds.

TERRY SYLVESTER, Gwalia Buildings, Barry Docks CF62 5QR (Tel 01446 745444).

Travellers are invited to free holiday market at the airport



CARDIFF AIRPORT is holding a free holiday market at Rhose on February 22, and families, couples and solo travellers alike are invited to go along to see just how many places they can reach from Wales' national airport.

The event is being held in partnership with Regal Travel and there'll be more than 30 operators displaying their wares, such as KLM, Vueling Airlines, P&O Cruises and Newmarket Holidays.

Regal Travel's holiday experts, based across south Wales will be on hand with special offers on the day, to provide

free advice and take bookings. Plus, everyone who attends will be offered the chance to enter a free prize draw to win flights to Orlando!

The holiday market will be open from 11am to 3pm; each visitor will be given a 'passport' when they arrive, to be stamped by exhibitors.

It will give them entry to the free prize draw, for a chance to win two return flights from Cardiff to Orlando with Thomas Cook Airlines.

Other exhibitors include the airport's executive lounge and Nuance (the tax and duty free shop) with a selection of goods that can be bought on the day. Family entertainment will also be provided.

Cloudy2Clear Windows - Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes - not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Phil a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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Dyffryn Gardens staff's Porthcawl beach clean-up

The Dyffryn Gardens staff litter picking at Coney beach.



D Y F F R Y N Gardens staff have cleaned up Coney beach in Porthcawl to help celebrate 50 years of the successful coastline campaign 'Project Neptune.'

This was launched in 1965 and is the trust's longest running appeal. It is raising funds to help the charity and acquire and look after more than 740 miles of coastline in Wales, England and Northern Ireland. So far the campaign has raised

over £65 million.

The task was the brainchild of a gardener at Dyffryn Gardens, Dan Staniforth, who regularly visits the beach to surf. "I try and do some litter picking before work, but it's amazing how quickly the litter builds up. Besides being unsightly to visitors to the beach it is also harmful to the bird and animal species that live here so we wanted to do something about it."

The Dyffryn team will be at Coney Beach in Porthcawl again in May from 10am to 1pm, and are asking people to go along and lend the team a hand. Anyone wanting to get involved in the project should email dyffryn@nationaltrust.org.uk for more information.

The panto season is over... oh no, it isn't!

THE Glamorgan Federation of Young Farmers Clubs presents its annual pantomime competition between February 12-14 at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl.

It sees members aged between 10-26 from Glamorgan's seven clubs go head to head to showcase their talents.

The winning cast will go forward to represent Glamorgan in the Wales finals at the Swansea Grand Theatre in March and from that, the winning team go forward to the national finals at Torquay in April.

The competition starts with performances from Wick and Maendy. The second evening will see Bridgend,

Llantrisant and Gelligaer take to the stage, while the third evening will see Gower and Neath perform, followed by the final adjudication and results.

Glamorgan YFC county chairman, Miss Kath Campbell, said: "The standard of competition is always very high in Glamorgan and never fails to entertain. I would, therefore, strongly encourage families to come along to enjoy an extension to the traditional pantomime season and experience the range of singing and acting talents within Glamorgan YFC."

Curtain up at 7pm each night. For more information, contact county organiser, Gwyneth Thomas, on 07779 331839 or by email glamorgan@yfc-wales.org.uk.

JAMES SCOOPS THE REGIONAL APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR AWARD

J A M E S BREARLEY (20) from Bridgend, came up trumps at the EEF/Aldermore Future Manufacturing Awards, where he won the outstanding performance by a third year apprentice award, sponsored by JAM Recruitment.

James, who works in Barry for Dow Corning, beat off competition from five other shortlisted apprentices

after impressing judges with his dedication, determination and drive.

The apprentice awards, now in their 65th year celebrate a long tradition of apprenticeships in Wales, as well as recognising individual achievements.

James said: "I'm delighted to have won this award, especially after being up against some other incredibly talented and dedicated apprentices. It has been an eye-opener, and equally terrifying and inspiring to see the success and strength of

the other shortlisted apprentices - as far as I'm concerned, we're all winners.

"I just hope that my success so far makes other local young people think seriously about becoming an apprentice too."

LEGAL ADVICE
LEGAL advice will be available at The Age Connect Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry on Tuesday, February 17 (10am - 12 midday). Contact 01446 732385 for further information.

YFC walk (the boards) like an Egyptian!

IN recent months, club nights at Maendy YFC have focused on rehearsals for the annual Glamorgan Federation YFC drama competition, which this year takes the form a pantomime.

From dancing and singing to comedy and tricks, this year's production, entitled 'Camels and Guile upon the Nile', is set to be an Egyptian-themed showstopper.

Club chairman, Heather Jarvis, said: "This competition is a wonderful opportunity for the whole club to work together. From young members competing for the very first time, to the

retirement of golden oldie, Ieuan Rosser, who will model the Dame's designer clothes for the last time this year, everyone plays their part.

"The hard work that takes place behind the scenes is worth it to see the members perform and enjoy such an experience."

The competition at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl between February 12-14, will see the seven YFC clubs in Glamorgan, made up of members aged 10-26, go head to head to represent the county at the Wales Finals in March.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact county organiser, Mrs Gwyneth Thomas, on 07779 331839 or email glamorgan@yfc-wales.org.uk.

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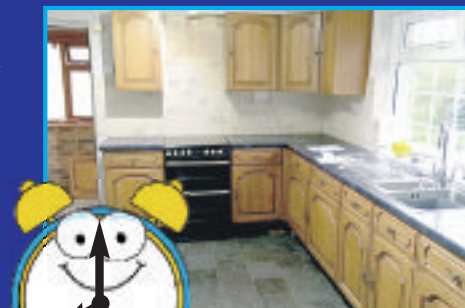
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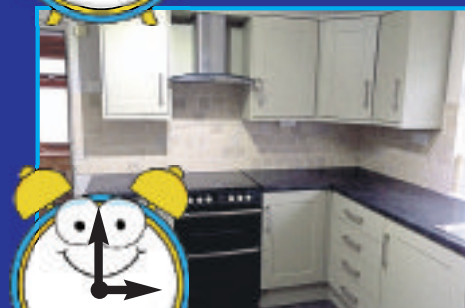
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Senedd votes to stop fracking – if it gets the power to do so!

LAST week, the Welsh Government backed a Plaid Cymru proposal to declare a moratorium on fracking – but it will have no force until Wales gets the necessary power devolved from Westminster.

The Plaid Cymru candidate for the Vale, Coun Ian Johnson, welcomed the vote in the Senedd,

which was 37–16 in favour. The moratorium would enable concerns over the technique's safety to be examined.

The Vale has been at the heart of debates about the safety and ethics of hydraulic fracturing, or 'fracking', since early 2011 when plans were put forward for test drilling in Llandow.

Since then, other plans have also been made to drill near the village of Llantrithyd.

Coun Johnson said: "The next step is that we must ensure the Welsh Government has the powers to carry out this policy, because those powers are apparently still with the government in Westminster".

He added: "I would much rather that we invested in clean, green renewables rather than fossil fuels like the shale gas that comes from fracking".

The Welsh Liberal Democrats supported the move, and are calling on the Welsh Government to issue a new Technical Advice Note (TAN) to set out the environmental and health standards expected of fracking operations, enabling local planning authorities to reject applications for fracking unless it is proven safe to do so.

Eluned Parrott, Welsh Liberal Democrat Assembly Member for South Wales Central said: "The environmental and health risks of fracking cannot be ignored, and the scientific evidence to show that fracking is safe simply does not exist."

"Furthermore, it seems likely that shale gas extraction would increase both short and long-term greenhouse gas emission rates and, in the context of climate change, this makes it unjustifiable."

"With the number of test drilling sites already approved in the Vale of Glamorgan and RCT, it is important that the Welsh Government is proactive on this issue".

Unsurprisingly, after the Senedd voted, the Wales Green Party said in a statement that a vote for the Greens in forthcoming elections would be a vote against fracking, permanently in Wales.

Council says 'thank you'

AT a meeting of Barry Town Council's amenities committee on Monday, February 2, a special presentation was organised for Simon Morgan of Mossfords.

Simon donated a boulder with an inscription to commemorate 125 years of Merthyr Dyfan cemetery – situated at the entrance to the new cemetery extension and, as a token of thanks, an engraved tankard was presented.

Lucy Day, a representative of Mossfords, was present at the meeting to accept the gift on behalf of Simon Morgan. It was handed over by the Town Mayor, Coun Jeff Evans.



FLY DIRECT FROM CARDIFF TO 'UNDISCOVERED ITALY'

READERS will be delighted to learn that Newmarket Holidays is offering a departure from Cardiff Airport covering the southern provinces of Puglia, Basilicata and Bari.

It will explore many of the highlights of an area that was until fairly recently, both figuratively and literally, 'down at heel', but which has now begun to rival much of the rest of Italy.

'Italian Versailles'

The first night is spent in Caserta, dominated by the vast former royal palace known as the 'Italian Versailles'.

The following day, the journey east into neighbouring Basilicata beckons, and with it, historic Matera.

Remote and atmospheric, Matera is famed for its extraordinary sassi cave-dwellings and have been declared with justification a UNESCO World Heritage site.

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Heading from Matera into the province of Puglia, the tour then spends three nights in a four-star hotel close to the famed hill-town of Ostuni.

This comfortable base is ideal for relaxed exploration, not only of Ostuni itself, with its maze of narrow alleyways but of Alberobello, home to the largest collection of conical trulli houses and of Baroque treasure-chest Lecce.

The simple dry-stone and domed-roofed trulli offer cooling shade in the heat of summer, and are very much a permanent feature and the major draw for the increasing number of visitors to Alberobello.

'Florence of the South'

One of the highlights of the tour is the visit to the gorgeous city of Lecce, where extravagantly decorated churches and civic

buildings have earned it the title of 'Florence of the South.'

Rest and relaxation

En route to a final two-night stay on the Adriatic shore in Vieste, at the tip of the remote Gargano peninsula, there's a visit to port-city Bari to enjoy, the highlight of which is the stunning Basilica di San Nicola.

After all the exploration of the last few days, it's time for some 'R and R', with the delights of a well-appointed hotel to enjoy, before heading home.

With four-star accommodation and the services of a friendly, knowledgeable tour manager, this is a tour that will be richly rewarding to all those who have wanted to discover a region still unspoiled by ravages of mass tourism.

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Out and About with The GEM

Oyelowo's trip to Selma powerful and uplifting...

As well as being a spell check nemesis, David Oyelowo has been building up steam on the big screen over the past few years, lighting up the likes of *The Last King of Scotland*, *The Help*, *Jack Reacher* and *Interstellar* to name but four.

However, Oyelowo's latest role sees him essay Martin Luther King in *Selma*, which tells the story of how King's intention to march in 1965 from the titular town to Montgomery, Alabama, in a bid to secure equal voting rights, with King and his followers acting in the face of opposition both verbal and physical...

Much has been made of *Selma*'s alleged snub at this year's Academy Awards, the film receiving only a best picture nomination to go with a nod in the best song category, with detractors claiming it's a symbol that Oscar voters (many of whom are white and with an average age of 63) are out of touch – nothing

new there then. Conspiracy theories aside, it is puzzling there wasn't more love shown as *Selma* is a moving, heartbreaking and uplifting piece of work that tells the tale of a vital tipping point in American history exceedingly well.

There is always a danger of true-life tales taking a set point of view without looking outside its bubble (the more Oscar-lauded *American Sniper* for example), but *Selma*'s strength is digging beneath the fact and history and throwing us into the reality of the situation; several times the emotional impact of what you see on screen is amplified only seconds later with the knowledge that these events actually took place.

The ace card comes from David Oyelowo, whose performance as Martin Luther King is absolutely mesmerising. It would be easy to simply play the icon, the man who held audiences rapt as he eulogised about a world of equality, yet while Oyelowo thoroughly convinces in these big speeches, it's in the



by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen
Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

quieter moments (consoling a grandfather whose son has been a fatal victim of King's dream for example) that he really shines.

While the film bathes King in a heroic light, there are hints around the edges, subtly introduced, that he is simply just a man with the foibles and weaknesses that come with it – a late-night confession to his wife, doubt that what he is trying to do will actually work – and the cost, both mental and physical, that his course of action will have.

Oyelowo's ability to dig below the surface of King is what gives the film its propulsion, the actor investing everything and it's clear through the performance just how ingrained Oyelowo is in nailing the man behind the myth.

It's Oyelowo's second time working with director Ava DuVernay (they are set to team a third time for a film about the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina), and already the pair seem to have developed a shorthand together that works well.

DuVernay's camera captures the tone and tensions of the times perfectly, but is never far away from Oyelowo; a

critique is that when Oyelowo is offscreen, the material feels like it's playing a little too much to type, but this is an impressive directorial outing for DuVernay.

Surrounding Oyelowo are fine turns from the likes of Oprah Winfrey, Tim Roth and Tom Wilkinson; the former acting as the tipping point as her dreams of being able to vote are cruelly denied, while the latter pair, as the Alabama governor, and president Lyndon Johnson respectively, could so easily have played the oppressive white man roles (despite in reality Johnson's contribution to civil rights) but the script by Paul Webb thankfully offers them some light and shade, with Giovanni Ribisi's small role as Johnson's adviser a nice counterpoint.

As ever with films of this ilk, and as touched upon earlier, while *Selma* offers a little more roundedness than some true life stories, there are still elements that are glossed over; but when a film is as powerful and as moving as this one, you are more than prepared to accept these shortcomings.

VERDICT: An emotional and engaging snapshot of a moment in history, Ava DuVernay's *Selma* manages to jettison historical stuffiness for a film that is heartbreaking and uplifting. It's well done across the board, but David Oyelowo's mesmerising (and sadly unrewarded) turn as Martin Luther King is the fuel that makes this fire ignite. *Highly recommended.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Thirteen Days* (2000), *Lee Daniels' The Butler* (2013).

Pictures that tell a moving story

THE Vale AM, Jane Hutt, opened an exhibition of photography at the St Donats Art Centre on Saturday, February 7 by artist David Evans Berry.

After graduating from the documentary photography course at University of Wales, Newport (now the University of South Wales), he worked at the Ruchi school in the industrial township of Baddi in northern India. The children, who have no birth certificates and do not officially exist, posed proudly in their school uniforms. Ms Hutt said:

"David's pictures capture very skillfully the flicker of aspiration in the children's faces. This is rendered so much more poignant by the knowledge that the school which offered them the hope of education is no longer open."

David Evans Berry said: "Travelling in what we see as a third world country showed me what is really important in life and what is unnecessary. It was an important lesson to learn."

The exhibition, titled *Om Vishnu*, is open from 10am-4pm on Monday to Friday until February 27.

WHAT'S ON / NEWS IN BRIEF

Can you host a vulnerable adult?

THE Vale Council is calling on residents to support the adult placement service by opening their homes to adults with learning and other disabilities for short breaks and on a long-term basis.

For more information, visit www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or telephone 01446 731105.

Benefit advice

ARE you living in the Vale and need help on benefits such as pension credit, attendance allowance, housing benefit or disability living allowance?

Age Connect Cardiff and Vale runs a monthly welfare rights service which can help you with any of these issues. You may have had a benefit turned down. We can help with an appeal.

YFC prove small is best!

MEMBERS of Wick Young Farmers really have something to celebrate – they recently entered a national competition for the club of the month – and won!

Even though the club is probably the smallest in Glamorgan, they must have made up for their attributes to win such an accolade!

They have been busy starting the ball rolling to get the public more aware through social media to gather support for all dairy farmers by drinking pints of milk.

It's vital that our members show how passionate young people are about supporting our agricultural industry and by using social media it has really spread the word!

Young Farmers in Wales received a setback, due to Welsh Government cutting grant aid from April 1 and are trying to overturn this decision.

There is never a quiet moment in the YFC calendar and this week they face the pantomime festival in the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl where you will find the members showing off their talents to a different level! Tickets are available through GlamorganYFC. CT

Age Connect Cardiff and Vale will be able to chat to you on any of these issues and help with form filling.

A session is being held on Tuesday, February 17, from 9.30am to 11.30am at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry.

Appointments can be made or just come along. Home visits can be arranged, contact 01446 732385. GF

Poetry reading

GRiffin BOOKS, Penarth's independent bookshop, is hosting 2015 Costa Poetry Award winner

Jonathan Edwards for a reading and Q&A session next week.

He has won multiple awards, but *My Family and Other Superheroes* is his first published collection. This event takes place in Griffin Books on Thursday, February 19, from 7pm. Admission is free and refreshments will be provided. For more details visit griffinbooks.co.uk.

Display

THROUGHOUT 2015 Dyffryn Gardens will be using its exhibition hall to showcase works by local art groups and students.

Cardiff School of Art and Design will kick off the first exhibition on February 18 and will be displaying until mid-March.

The works are in response to new research about the Cory family, who lived at Dyffryn during the late 1890s and early 1900s.

Pontyclun display

GILES Gallery, Pontyclun will stage a charity exhibition.

The Pontyclun & District Macmillan Fundraising Group has been given a set of framed tapestry pictures crafted by an unnamed supporter, which will be offered for sale.

Free entry and free glass of wine and nibbles.

Formed less than two years ago, the group has already raised in excess of £17,000 and has a new target of £25k in its sights.

Free half term play schemes

BRIDGEND Communities First has free February half term play schemes and activities throughout the county borough for children aged 8 – 11 years.

Play schemes will be based at: Caerau Welfare Park Pavilion (bowls hall) February 16 and 18, 10am – 2pm; North Cornelly Scout Hall February 16, 17 and 18, 10am – 2pm; Ogmore Valley Life centre (with Halo Leisure) February 16 – 20, 10am – 2pm; Bettws Life Centre February 17 and 20, 10am – 1pm; Maesteg Welfare Park Pavilion February 17 and 19, 10am – 2pm; Gwylfa Hall, Minerva Street, Bridgend February 19 10am – 2pm; Bettws Library – Create your own rap workshop February 19 from 2pm – 4pm.

For further details, call Bridgend Communities First, 01656 643514 or visit www.commfirstbridgend.co.uk.

WACKY RAINBOW RUN BACK FOR TY HAFAN

TY HAFAN will again bring Wales' colourful 5K Rainbow Run to Porthcawl to support its vital work with life-limited children and their families on April 18.

More than 700 people have already signed up for the wacky fun run at Coney Beach where participants will walk, run, skip, dance or even hop the route – and will be showered with coloured powder along the way!

Mair Kinsey, marketing and events

officer at Tŷ Hafan, said: "The Rainbow Run is not a race and it's not about speed or fitness – it's about having lots of fun with friends and raising a smile for Tŷ Hafan."

"Tŷ Hafan is a magical place, full of fun and laughter and not what you might imagine a hospice to be. We think that the Rainbow Run is the perfect way to celebrate and support the work we do."

To register for the Rainbow Run, visit www.rainbowrunwales.co.uk or call 029 2053 2282.

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Weatherman Derek has a Patagonian adventure for Velindre Cancer Centre

POPULAR local weather presenter Derek Brockway has signed up to trek Patagonia in 2015 – to raise funds for Velindre Cancer Centre.

Following the success of 'Walk with the Weatherman' last November, the second in his series has also been announced.

This time Derek will be tackling the highest point in southern Britain, Pen y Fan on Sunday,

March 22. Derek said: "The first Walk with the Weatherman was great fun, an eight-mile walk from Barry to Rhosneigby Point, which attracted great support.

"This walk is another favourite of mine, with fantastic views from the top of Pen y Fan. I just hope the weather is fine so we can enjoy the spectacular scenery!

"Velindre is a wonderful charity and helps so many people including a few of my friends, family and work

colleagues providing vital treatment, care and support.

"The number of people suffering from cancer is on the increase; none of us know what's around the corner and I want to do my bit to help.

"I am fascinated by Patagonia, its history and connection with Wales and as a keen walker I've always wanted to visit this special part of the world. Plus while I am there I will have the opportunity

to practice my Welsh, say *shwmae* and *hwyl am y rol*!"

Derek explained: "The trek is going to be a challenge and I will need to get fitter over the next 10 months.

"More importantly, I hope to raise loads of money for Velindre, so it can continue to help people in the future and with more research and hopefully find a cure for cancer. My walk on March 22 will help my fitness regime and I hope lots of people sign up and join me."

Entry for the event is £5, and each participant

will be required to raise a minimum of £50. If you would like to join Derek and Walk with the Weatherman please visit: www.velindrefundraising.com/bookonline.

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of Welsh settlers arriving in Patagonia Velindre has organised a unique, once in a lifetime trek.

The 11-day journey will take in stunning national parks, mountain ridges, beautiful lakes, amazing icefalls and stunning views of the snow capped Andes.

On November 24, Velindre trekkers will be

part of a very special walk with the Rifleros as they trek up Craig Goch to the point from which Cwm Hyfryd was first seen by Welsh ancestors 150 years ago to the exact day.

Head of fundraising at Velindre, Andrew Morris said: "Having previously organised some very successful treks to

Kilimanjaro and Peru we wanted to put together a really special trip.

"Given the unique relationship between Wales and Patagonia, and the significance of the 150th anniversary, November 2015 is definitely the right time to be trekking this fantastic country.

"Being part of the

official 150th celebrations will also give our participants a rare insight into Patagonia, a chance to enjoy stunning countryside through a challenging trek, and also raise money to help Velindre continue to provide help and support for cancer patients in Wales".

Holly answers call for overseas volunteers

FEWER than 100 Welsh 18 – 25-year-olds out of 7,000 young people in the UK have joined fully-funded volunteer placements overseas with ICS VSO, according to a recent report.

Now a 25-year-old Porthcawl woman is urging other young Welsh people to apply to volunteer for an experience of a lifetime and to help contribute to the fight against global poverty.

Holly Aspey (25) will travel to Cambodia on March 3, to help fight poverty in Stung Treng Province for three months. She will team up with local volunteers to tackle some of the problems facing the community, after getting a place on the Government-funded International Citizen Service (ICS).

Holly explained: "In order to participate in this volunteering project of a lifetime, I need to raise £800 for the charity that is fighting global poverty across the world through volunteers.

"Fundraising will show my commitment to the project and hopefully inspire other young people to apply to volunteer overseas and develop on a personal and professional level – bringing home skills, confidence and ideas that they can put to use in their own communities in Wales. So far, I've raised over £200 by sharing my story over Facebook."

To sponsor Holly Aspey, visit www.justgiving.com/Holly-Aspey2.

To find out more about ICS, visit www.volunteers.org or call 0208 780 7400.

'Please support Daffodil Appeal'

I AM appealing to your readers to volunteer for Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal, and help people living with a terminal illness in Bridgend to get the care they need.

We're looking for people who can donate a couple of hours of their time to collect for Marie Curie this February and March. All they need to do is encourage people to give a donation in

return for a daffodil pin. It's great fun!

Collecting for the Great Daffodil Appeal will help Marie Curie nurses care for someone with a terminal illness in your local community so they can spend more time with the people they love.

If you're able to donate your time to help, please contact me on 01554 759 071, or visit www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil.

Hannah Leckie, Community Fundraiser.



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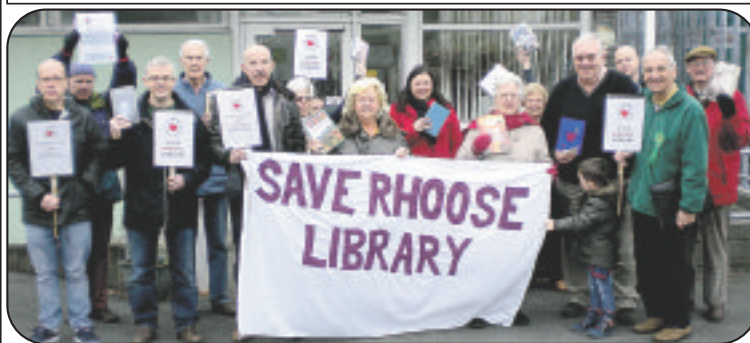
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Rhoose Library: THE FIGHT GOES ON



Anyone reading this week's letters page will have noted that campaigners who want to keep Rhoose Library open were disappointed by a letter last week which stated that the library "is closing". The GEM acknowledges that a better phrase would have been "is threatened with closure". A spokesman for the campaigners, Coun Philip Clarke, has emphasised that the campaign is very much alive.

MP calls for public to back cancer battle



MP ALUN CAIRNS is backing an appeal by Cancer Research UK to save the lives of more cancer patients – as a report shows that now one in two people will be diagnosed with the disease at some point in their lives.

The new figure was announced on World Cancer Day to highlight the urgent need to bolster public health and cancer services, so they can cope with a growing and ageing population and the looming demands for better diagnostics, treatments, and earlier diagnosis.

The MP for the Vale attended a parliamentary event held by Cancer Research UK to mark World Cancer Day and encourage MPs to support their Cross Cancer Out campaign.

He commented: "Currently, UK cancer survival rates are still lagging behind the best in Europe and too many cancers are diagnosed at an advanced stage, when they are harder to treat successfully."

"We cannot underestimate the devastating impact that cancer will have on people now and in the future."

"The good news is that Cancer Research UK is making huge advances in the battle against the disease," he added.

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Ward celebrates positive inspection at hospital

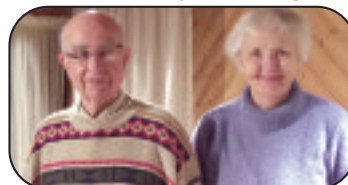
CARDIFF and Vale University Health Board welcomed Health Care Inspectorate Wales (HIW) for an unannounced dignity and essential care inspection at the University Hospital for Wales' ward B1 last October.

The report has been published and the "observations made by the Inspectors were extremely positive and reflect a high standard of patient care", they state. "Ward B1 provides cardiology care to patients from across south east Wales," explained Caryl Fox, Clinical Board Nurse for the UHB. "The comments made by the HIW Inspectors show the quality of treatment and high level of care on Ward B1."

"I'd like to thank the staff on the ward for their continued hard work and dedication to ensure patients receive the best possible care."

The HIW Inspectors had found staff were committed to providing good standards of person-centred care and patients and their families were treated with respect and dignity.

Charity song!



ABOVE: Hywel and Gwyneth Jeffreys.

Hywel Jeffreys (79) and his wife Gwyneth (82), are hosting a special celebration of music and song for Parkinson's UK on Monday, March 2 at the Hippodrome Music Hall, which is attached to their house in Lake Road West, Roath, Cardiff.

Performers include singer-actor Eric Roberts, the Pontyclun Ladies Choir and violinist Simon Carter.

For further information call Philippa Davies, Parkinson's UK Wales Fundraiser on 0844 225 9835 or pdavies@parkinsons.org.uk.

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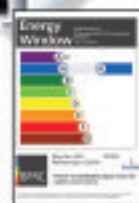
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New term starting 27th February in Cowbridge and Ystradowen
Book your FREE place with Kindermusik
Call Leonie on 01446 775048
www.kindermusikwithleonie.co.uk

KINDER MUSIK: For a child's brain, body, heart and soul...

THERE are many things to do with kids, so why not make it fun and educational?

Children thrive on music. It's one of the best vehicles for learning in early childhood development.

Kindermusik takes musical learning to the next level; our curriculum is proven to improve a

child's brain development.

And for parents, it's a fun thing to do with kids! And, of course, they develop a lifelong love of music.

So why not come and join? New classes for children (0-7yrs) are starting on February 27.

For more information, telephone Leonie on 01446 775048.

We're more than just a Music Shop!

AS the Barry Music Shop started its 15th year of trading on February 1, we have celebrated by taking on the dealership of LTD by ESP

Guitars! Founded in 1996, the LTD brand helped bring the quality and prestige of ESP to a more affordable price – in order to accommodate all players.

A wide range of LTD models is made to cover everyone – from beginning players, to serious working musicians – and with numerous different model families to choose from, we are sure there is an LTD Guitar perfect for you!

Since receiving our initial shipment of models, we have already experienced a lot of interest in many of them – and in fact, we have already had to re-order various guitars that have sold very quickly.

Why not pop along to The Barry Music Shop to have a look at the range – and at prices that may pleasantly surprise you?

Some people might not realise that

although a music shop, we stock pro-audio equipment for professional singers and performers.

We also stock the largest range of audio and video cables and connectors in the Vale at vastly better prices than supermarkets!

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You can order books in the comfort of your home and they will be delivered straight to your door.

This can be found at: mailmymusic.com/index.php?store=jpl s01 or go to our website at www.thebarrymusicshop.com; go to the products page and click on Books.

Why not pop into the Barry Music shop soon, to see all the current special offers?

The Barry Music Shop
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We are now Dealers of LTD Guitars by ESP ESP Ltd
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Bridge talks progress as closure time is cut

AS a result of the recent furore over plans to close the railway bridge at Ewenny for five months, a series of meetings has been taking place, yielding a promise by Network Rail to cut the closure time by

almost two months, writes **PHILIP IRWIN**.

Both Vale AM Jane Hutt and Vale MP Alun Cairns have been regulars at the offices of Network Rail, after local businesses in St Bride's Major said that losing passing trade for such a time would severely damage them.

On Friday, February 6, Ms Hutt held a meeting with Dylan Bowen, Head of Public Affairs at Network Rail, to discuss the issue.

Alun Cairns also reported: "In the past week I have had held two very constructive meetings with Network Rail and contractors".

After the meetings, it was announced that the construction time had been cut from five months to just over three.

The project is now scheduled to start in early March, and finish in June.

Mark Lewis, who is the landlord of the Fox and Hounds in St Bride's Major, told The GEM: "Any reduction in the amount of time that the bridge is closed is a help, but we are still waiting to have a conversation about compensation for the lost trade."

Alun Cairns said: "I am pleased that Network Rail has listened to my concerns on behalf of the community and has looked again in depth at how the new bridge project can go ahead."

"A significant reduction in the timescales is now realistic, and I will keep the pressure on Network Rail to identify further opportunities to shorten the project timings".

He added "Everyone recognises the need for a new bridge, and following our meetings, I am grateful to Network Rail for taking the concerns of the community seriously and acting."

Jane Hutt said: "I am writing to Wales and West utilities to urge them to divert their power lines alongside these works – as BT has agreed to do."

"I have also asked for clear signs to be provided at the entrance to the village to say that it's 'business as usual' for the local shop, pub and hair salon and well-marked signage about diversionary tactics for lorries during the period of closure."

Sainsbury's comments on local plans

FOLLOWING a recent letter in The GEM, where a reader stated that Sainsbury's would not be opening in Llantwit Major, the supermarket giant has written to clarify the situation.

A Sainsbury's spokesperson said: "We held a public consultation in spring 2014, where we said we were exploring options for a small store to serve the town, proposing a site on land at Bridge House Farm, Llanmaes.

"A large number of residents were supportive of a new foodstore coming to the town, but not at this particular site.

"We listened to this feedback and held further discussions with local stakeholders to understand their concerns in more detail. We remain committed to bringing forward a new Sainsbury's in the area and are reviewing our options as how to best do this.

"We appreciate this delay will be frustrating, but we hope to be able to update the local community in the coming months".

However, total clarity is not quite there yet. The GEM asked one question, which was: "Can you confirm that Sainsbury's has no interest in developing the Llanmaes site?"

The response was as follows: "We're reviewing our options currently. When we can provide more detail, we will".

GOMIN OGWR Cymuned Ogwr Cyngor Bro Morgannwg



OGMORE COMMON Community of Ogmore Vale of Glamorgan Council

Mae Cyngor Bro Morgannwg wedi gwneud cais i'r Gweinidogion Cymreig am ganiatâd o dan Adran 38 Deddf Tiroedd Comin 2006 i wneud ychydig o waith ar Gomin Ogwr CL32. Cynigir y gwaith fel rhan o gynllun i ailosod Llwybr Arfordir Cymru a darparu llwybr mwy diogel nad yw'n rhy agos i Ogmore Road/B4524.

Dyma'r gwaith a gynigwyd:

1. Gwastatáu'r llethr bresennol drwy: a) godi a chadw'r tyeirch a godwyd b) gloddio'r wyneb moel hyd at ddwyfnder gwastad; c) osod ymyl bren ar bob ochr, a defnyddio'r pridd a dynnwyd i adeiladu clawdd hyd at yr ymyl bren ar y llethr i waered; ch) roi rhwyll borfa dros y cyfan er mwyn ei gynnal; d) ailosod y tyeirch a'u sicrhau wrth y rhwyll a phinnau. Mae'n bosibl y bydd angen rhagor o dweirch.

2. Bydd y gwaith yn effeithio ar ddarn o dir comin 58 medr o hyd ac 1.5 medr o led.

Bydd y gwaith yn cael ei wneud yng nghornel ogledd-ddwyreiniol y comin ac i'r de ddwyrain o dafarn y Pelican, Ogmore Road, Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, CF32 0QP, rhwng cyfeirnodau grid SS 8819 7674 (pwynt A ar y map) ac SS 8822 7679 (pwynt B ar y map).

Cewch weld y ffurflen g i'r map sy'n dangos y gwaith arfaethedig, yng Nghyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfa'r Doc, Heol yr Isffordd, CF63 4RT rhwng 9.00am a 4.00pm yn ystod yr wythnos. Cewch gopi o'r ffurflen gais a'r map drwy anfon llythyr i'r cyfeiriad uchod neu nages i: pcottnam@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Dylech anfon eich gwrthwynebiadau neu'ch sylwadau mewn llythyr neu nages i Arolygiaeth Gynllunio Cymru, Adeiladu'r Goron, Parc Cathays, Caerdydd CF10 3NQ / wales@pins.gsi.gov.uk ERYBN 12 Mawrth 2015. Ni chaiff llythron sy'n cyrraedd yr Arolygiaeth eu trin yn gyfrinachol. Bydd copïau'n cael eu hanfon at yr ymgyddiad a rhai eraill cyfrannog hefyd o bosibl.

Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu, Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfa'r Dociau, Heol yr Isffordd, CF63 4RT

Dyddiedig 12 Chwefror 2015

The Vale of Glamorgan Council has applied to the Welsh Ministers for consent under Section 38 of the Commons Act 2006 to carry out restricted works on Ogmore Common CL32. The work is proposed as part of a re-alignment of the Wales Coast Path in order to provide a safer path route away from Ogmore Road/B4524.

The proposed works are:

1. To level the current sloped gradient by; a) lifting & retaining existing turf, b) excavating exposed surface to a level depth; c) timber edging on both sides, use excavated soil to embank to sloped timber side; d) install grass mesh for stability, over which; e) existing turf re-laid back & pinned to mesh. Some supplementary turf may be needed,

2. The area of common land affected will be 58 metres in length by 1.5 metres wide.

The works will be located in the north east corner of the common and south east of the Pelican Public House, Ogmore Road, Bridgend, CF32 0QP, on Grid Ref: SS 8819 7674 (point A on map) to SS 8822 7679 (point B on map)

A copy of the application form and map showing the proposed works can be inspected at the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Docks Office, Subway Road, CF63 4RT, between the hours of 9:00am and 4:00pm on weekdays. A copy of the application form and map may be obtained by writing to the address given above or by e-mail: pcottnam@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Any objections or representations should be sent in writing ON or BEFORE 12th March 2015 to the Planning Inspectorate Wales at Crown Buildings, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ or wales@pins.gsi.gov.uk. Letters sent to the Planning Inspectorate cannot be treated as confidential. They will be copied to the applicant and possibly to other interested parties.

Director of Development Services, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Docks Offices, Subway Road, Barry, CF63 4RT

Dated 12th February 2015

The GEM is attacked – for printing article in Welsh!

‘God bless those preserving our magical Welsh language’

WOULD you please print the following letter with reference to the anonymous male or female who didn't like the fact that The GEM has a Welsh page in your newspaper, with articles written in

‘Welsh is my language... and I'm proud!’

IAM writing today to thank my teachers in Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg.

They are amazing and so helpful. I love my teachers! My headteacher is a great inspiration to me, as he told us in assembly something that made me think long and hard – ‘Welsh is my language, it doesn't belong to any other country.’

Although I'm not saying that no one else can speak it, I'm saying that the Welsh language belongs to Wales!

He made me think that people who live in Wales should be proud to speak this amazing language, because at the end of the day you are in

Wales! Sure, I can speak other languages like English, and a little bit of French, but it brings me back to the fact that I am a fluent Welsh speaker!

Yes, it's nice to speak other languages, but I would be proud to just speak WELSH! You should be really proud to speak Welsh, even if you can only say ‘Hello’.

That's the point, you don't have to come from a Welsh family, you don't even have to be a fluent Welsh speaker.

Welsh is Welsh at the end of the day, no matter what! I am so glad to speak the Welsh language and I think you should too..

Ffion Sara Jeffery,
(aged 11)
Penarth.

Welsh. I cannot understand why?

In France, articles are printed in French in their newspapers as is the case in Germany, Italy, Russia, etc.

I would recommend that he or she should listen to a good male voice choir singing ‘Myfanwy’. I am sure the anonymous person will then appreciate this beautiful Welsh language.

God bless the people of Wales who are trying to preserve this magical language for their future generations.

A friend of mine wondered if alongside each article written in Welsh, there could be the same article written in English.

Mrs Margaret McParlin, Dinas Powys.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Thank you for your letter Mrs Parlin, and the suggestion is duly noted, though space has to be a practical consideration.

‘The Welsh are more friendly’

WITH reference to the comment by Peter Reed in the GEM of February 5, I would like to say, just because you were born at St David's Hospital, Cardiff, does not make you Welsh, any more than if I'd been born at Chairman Mao Hospital in Beijing, it would automatically make me Chinese.

In Wales, people also speak Welsh... Love it or leave it.

How many times have I heard tourists comment that the Welsh are much more friendly and welcoming than the English!

That is a generalisation, of course, but there's some truth in it.

C John
Corntown

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The extraordinary energy efficiency of the Loggia comes in part from the innovative, super-insulated, columns, which are up to five times more thermally efficient than brick.

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Inside, the Loggia delivers a combination of crisp, plastered walls, striking columns, cleverly concealed heaters, glazing and modern lighting, creating a clean and contemporary space that really is made for modern living.

Best of all, this is an extension that can be quick to construct, taking far less time than a traditional orangery. In fact you could be opening the doors of your Loggia before barbecue season is in full swing.



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Bobbies on Call to offer great support

Co-directors and namesakes Bob Evans and Bob McAlister, are delighted with the response to the initial wave of advertising and publicity in The GEM, for their 'Bobbies on Call' venture – which has been up and running in the Vale and surrounding areas for almost two years.

Bob Evans said: "We have yet to meet anyone who has told us that this offer of on-call support and practical help is anything other than a great idea."

"The formula of having former police and emergency service workers at your call, has really grabbed the imagination and it seems to fill a void in people's lives."

"We are not seeking to replace anything that is there already for people, in terms of support, but our callers show that there was a gap."

"Thankfully, we are all living longer, but with that goes a desire to maintain independent living in our homes for as long as possible. We assist our clients to do just that, by providing practical, rather than the usual medical-type care that people consider when they age."

"The positive feedback we receive confirms that our instincts for the business were correct."

Co-founder Bob

McAlister commented: "I can't tell you how touched I was when one lady – our very first customer – said on receiving her first catch-up call from the team, said: 'I really feel that knowing there is someone at the end of the phone for me, has made a difference to my life already.'"

"When you leave the force, you tend to miss certain parts of the job, but now being back in the role of helping people, has replaced some of that job satisfaction. If our business can continue to do that for others, then that suits us all," he added.

Bob Evans from Penllyn, Cowbridge, began his career in 1980 at the age of 17, rising through the ranks of South Wales Police and retiring with the rank of Assistant Chief Constable.

Bob McAlister, who also held a senior position at South Wales Police, said: "Bobbies On Call' suits those people who may not always have family or reliable help close to hand. With many years' service apiece, there is very little that 'Bobbies On Call' personnel haven't encountered and dealt with calmly and efficiently."

Adds Bob Evans: "Our hand-picked staff understand that day-to-day concerns can prevent the elderly from enjoying their home and sense of well-being."

"Cold-callers, rogue traders, worrying if your

property is safe and secure – are all issues that can cause anxiety."

"Then there are the day-to-day niggles people wish were sorted out – from a piece of furniture that needs moving – to help making sense of a utilities bill or contract."

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Currently, we have an abundance of cats who are desperately in need of a new family, or people to care for them.

For an appointment or further information, please telephone Maesteg Animal Welfare Society on 01656 721496 or 01656 769855. Please leave a message on our answerphone if we are unavailable.

At the current time, we are unable to accommodate any more cats – we are desperately in need of homes!

We are now able to accept text donations. Text maws11 to 70070.

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PASSMORES ASKS 'HAVE YOU MADE YOUR WILL YET?'

EVERY adult in the UK should consider making a Will, and here are some of the reasons why:

- Without a Will, the state directs who inherits your estate, so the people you wish to benefit may get nothing.

- Without a Will, if you are married, you may think that your estate will pass to your spouse in any event, but this is not necessarily the case.

- If you are not married to your partner, the law does not automatically recognise partners as having the same rights as

husbands, wives and civil partners, and your partner may get nothing.

- If you have children, there may be uncertainty about who will look after or provide for them, should you die.

- Certain people could make a claim on your estate if you have no Will, because they may depend upon you financially.

- Inheritance tax issues may arise if not addressed in your Will.

Wills should be kept up to date and renewed upon any change of circumstances; for example, marriage, divorce, separation, death of a loved one, or upon having a child.

Excluding certain beneficiaries

in your Will may also cause potential difficulties as they may have the right to make a claim against your estate. Special care is needed if you exclude persons who might expect to benefit under your Will.

Ensure that you have a Will in place and that it is up to date to avoid any undesired consequences and complications.

Carli Evans is a solicitor with Messrs Passmores Solicitors and a member of Solicitors for the Elderly, a specialist panel of solicitors dealing with elderly client matters and the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners.

SEE MORE ON PAGE 24



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'The real reason for recycling closures'

THE Vale of Glamorgan Council has recently closed a number of recycling centres in Barry, because of so-called 'fly tipping and abuse'.

This reasoning is disingenuous, to say the least. As an assiduous recycler, I used three of these sites on a regular basis – at the Waitrose supermarket, the Waterfront close to the Halford's store and alongside the

Gladstone Road roundabout near the police station. Any 'fly-tipping and abuse' was marginal.

My interpretation of 'fly-tipping' is the dumping of furniture, mattresses, builders' rubble, television sets, fridges, cookers and other large items that should be disposed of at the council's waste amenity site.

I cannot recall any of the preceding items being offloaded at the sites I used. In my view,

the real reason for closure was staggering simple: the bins were not emptied frequently enough and thus became overwhelmed and unsightly.

The council should be more honest and admit their failure to manage the sites properly. Rather, they offer spurious explanations, blaming local people.

GEM reader Derek Hooper, Barry.

Reorganisation for local schools?

A proposed £35million transformation of a number of schools in Barry will be considered by Vale of Glamorgan councillors on February 23.

Proposals include the creation of a flagship English-medium mixed sex secondary school, comprising an upper and lower school building, on the current site of Barry Comprehensive and Ysgol Bro Morgannwg.

The Vale's Welsh-medium secondary school, along with its primary counterpart Ysgol Nant Talwg, would then be moved to the site of Bryn Hafren School, with a brand new primary school building installed on the site.

The Vale Council said a public consultation in 2013 showed strong support from parents and young people for a co-educational school to replace the current single sex secondary schools. Following the consultation a feasibility study was carried out.

The planned investment would see over £18m committed to improving the new mixed comprehensive school buildings and nearly £17m spent on renovations and the creation of new buildings for Ysgol Bro Morgannwg as part of the Welsh Government's Twenty-first Century Schools programme.

Carole Tyley, the chair of governors at Bryn Hafren, commented: "All of our pupils start their learning in mixed

primary schools and after leaving Bryn Hafren, most continue their learning in co-educational colleges and universities. We are one of the last single sex schools in the country and I think the time has come for a change."

Kath Beaudette, the chair of governors at Barry Comprehensive, added: "I welcome the development of proposals that will see major investment in school buildings in the town."

"With recent investment in secondary education in Cowbridge and Penarth, and plans in place for Llantwit Major, it is time that Barry's children and young people also benefitted."

DID YOU LOSE YOUR CAMERA NEAR DYFFRYN?



ABOVE: Just two of the photographs on the camera found near Dyffryn.

A reader has contacted The GEM after he found a camera recently and wanted it returned to the owner.

Chris Buxton explained: "I was out walking on Tuesday, February 3, near Dyffryn. I visited the burial stones nearby and found a camera

lying on the ground by the stones." There were a number of cheerful family photographs on the camera and Chris is keen to reunite it with its rightful owner.

If you are the owner, or have information as to who the owner might be, contact The Glamorgan GEM on 01446 774484.

Brighter Moves arrives in Llantwit Major

HAVING been the successful owners of Make Your Move Estate Agents since 2003, Darren and Helen Black are moving on to ventures new.

Based in the town at 1 Pound Field, Llantwit Major, they would like to thank their customers and friends for all their support over the years and would like to welcome Brighter Moves to the Llantwit premises.

Brighter Moves has been established since 2008 with offices in Bridgend and Talbot Green.

The Llantwit office will be run by Robert Morgan, a member of the National Association of Estate Agents.

Robert, a Llantwit resident since 1980, has a wealth of local knowledge to bring with him.

His aim is to continue the great service provided by Make Your Move, and maintain the ethos of an independent estate agency.

For simplicity in the transfer, Brighter Moves will continue with the same telephone number 01446 794433.

Brighter Moves will be loading properties onto the national portals of Right Move and Zoopla along with GEM newspaper advertising and would welcome any visits to the office, to meet and greet new and old customers.

Is Roxy music to your ears?

ROXY is a six-year-old crossbreed who is very loving and sweet, although she can be initially worried with new people.

Roxy does mix with other dogs, but sometimes struggles to share her toys. She is currently enjoying her weekly walks down to the local village pub to keep our wonderful volunteers company while they enjoy a coffee.

If Roxy is rehomed as an only dog, new owners will need to work hard on her separation issues. Roxy is a really lovely dog but due to her sensitive nature, she can only live with children over 14 years of age.

If you can offer Roxy a home, call 01656 725219 or visit Dogs Trust Bridgend, open every day except Wednesday.



LINDA FEAGAN

Write a letter to your body!

LOCAL residents are being encouraged to 'send a letter to my body' – as part of a new arts and health initiative in Bridgend county borough which aims to get people talking about issues such as body image and confidence.

The project is being led by artist Rabab Ghazoul, arts organisation Addo Creative and social enterprise Halo Leisure Ltd, with support from the Arts Council of Wales and Bridgend County Borough Council.

Rabab said: "We're hoping everyone will want to get involved in writing a 'Letter to my body'". It's the

last phase in a project that's looking at the relationship between arts and health in Bridgend County Borough, and could have some wonderful knock-on effects for great cultural projects that can happen in future in the area."

There will be free 'Letter to my body' sessions, with the first one taking place at Carnegie House in Bridgend today (February 12) from 10.30am.

Bridgend Library will hold an event on February 25 from 6pm to 7.30pm, where feelings surrounding body image will be discussed.

Contact Sarah Pace on 07715 102517 or email sarah@addocreative.com.

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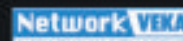
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THE MARIE CURIE DAFFODIL APPEAL... CAN YOU SPARE THE TIME TO HELP OUT?

Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal has been raising awareness and funds since 1986, when the first collections took place.

A spokeswoman said: "Marie Curie cares for people with any terminal illness including those with cancer, heart failure, dementia and chronic obstructive airway disease."

"Every March, millions of people across the UK show their support for our work, simply by giving a donation to wear a daffodil pin."

"This is all made possible by our fantastic team of volunteer collectors across the UK."

"Please join them in 2015 and help make it the best appeal yet."

"We've had 28 fantastic years of wearing yellow, collecting coins and raising smiles – joined by some famous faces along the way."

Here are some highlights:

In 1986 – The first daffodil appeal was held in Scotland. Volunteers collected donations and handed out fresh daffodils. The event was a great success and caught on across the UK.

In 1995 – The famous daffodil fabric pins made their debut, replacing fresh flowers. Three million pins were given out and £1.2 million donated.

In 2001 – Entertainer and presenter Cilla Black launched the appeal on a 'daffodil bus' donated by Yellow Pages, while model Kate Moss donned a designer T-shirt to raise awareness of Marie Curie's work during the appeal.

In 2011 – Actress Alison Steadman was the face of the very first TV ad campaign for the Great Daffodil Appeal. The appeal raised more than £5 million.

2014 was Marie Curie's most successful appeal to date raising £8.26 million, funding 413,000 nursing hours. The celebrity supporters included actress Olivia Coleman and actor Dominic West.



With your support, Marie Curie hopes 2015 will be the best year yet.

To sign up, please go to:
https://t.campaign.mariecurie.org.uk/webApp/mcc_suporterRegistration



You can request a donation box for your place of work.

LEFT:

Can you devote some of your spare time to collect for Marie Curie?

Marie Curie Cancer Care Devoted to Life

I enclose a donation payable to Marie Curie Cancer Care of:

£25 £15 £10

Other £.....

To make a credit card donation please call **029 20426068**

I am interested in doing some voluntary work such as in a shop or fundraising.

Name

Address

.....Postcode.....

Telephone

Please return this form to:
Georgina Burke, Marie Curie Hospice, Bridgeman Road, Penarth, CF64 3YR

'The Government is letting people down...' 'End hunger in UK' call to Government

A CALL to the UK Government by Ogmores MP, Huw Irranca-Davies, challenges it to end hunger in the UK.

During the recent Department for Food, Farming and Rural Affairs questions, Mr Irranca-Davies stated that there is no shortage of food in the UK but that the country still faces a hunger crisis.

He said: "In the UK, around one million people rely on emergency food aid to feed themselves and their families. Of this number, over 35,000 live in Wales."

"In recent years, this number has dramatically increased; with the Trussell Trust, the UK's largest food bank network, reporting that in the last six months alone of 2014 there was a 40 per cent increase in the number of people needing food aid."

"Despite this growing problem successive Conservative and Liberal

Democrat Ministers have refused to take responsibility and work towards a solution for the growing number of working poor and vulnerable people reliant on emergency food aid."

He went on: "What we figures is mirrored in our own communities. In the past five years, the number of people who need food aid to feed their families has dramatically increased."

"While the work, dedication and compassion of people like the volunteers at the Bridgend Food Bank is incredible, a longer term solution is needed."

"Until we have a Government which is serious about tackling poverty and low pay, I fear people will continue to be unable to put food on the table for their children and their families."

"These are our friends and our families and it is not good enough that this Government is letting them down."

Call for help for families in need

I AM hoping that GEM readers can help us as we are in desperate need of furniture and household items, non perishable food items and cleaning products for families and individuals that are waiting for our help.

We are a tiny voluntary group called Community Furniture Aid based in Pyle, and we offer donated items to those who are most in need.

People are directed to us from various agencies including homeless organisations, Women's Aid, the prison service, foster care, elderly and vulnerable adults to name a few. We also work with social services and housing associations.

We offer this service on a set donation price system that only just covers our very basic costs and we are all volunteers.

We cover all of Bridgend county borough and can also help in neighbouring areas for an extra charge in some cases.

We offer a part-house clearance service as well as single item collection. We can only afford to run our van two days a week so we have to try and fit a lot into our days. We welcome

volunteers from all backgrounds.

We also seek monetary donations that the public may wish to give to support our vital work, as we receive no outside funding.

Please can we do a 'shout out' for household items. We are in desperate need of items for families. Dinner plates, bowls, cutlery, mugs, beds, bedroom furniture, beds all sizes, cots (with all bolts) sofa with fire labels, white goods in working order as well as small electrical goods.

These are essential for someone having to set up a home from nothing.

Please contact the office to arrange collection or you can drop off items in Pyle.

If you wish to visit the unit, please get in touch with the office directly on 01656 746602.

Marianne Cash, Community Furniture Aid.

Bridge results

RESULTS for the Vale of Glamorgan bridge club for February 9:

1st Mike Best & Kevin Maddox 63.81%, 2nd Sue Norris & Su Summerhayes 63.48%, 3rd Marjorie Morris & Linda Pinnock 58.84%. **LE**

Councillor Howard Hamilton

As Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, it gives me great pleasure to support

Marie Curie Cancer Care Daffodil Campaign



Y Cynghorydd Howard Hamilton

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Ymgyrch Cennin Pedr Gofal Canser Marie Curie

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BARRY TOWN COUNCIL CYNGOR TREF Y BARRI

Councillor

JEFF EVANS

and members of the Town Council wish the Daffodil Campaign every success



Cyngor Tref Y Barri
Y Cynghorydd Jeff Evans
ae aelodau'r Cyngor Tref
dymuno pob llwyddiant yr
Ymgyrch Cennin Bedr

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PETERSTON SUPER ELY £329,000

Established three bedroom detached house and garage situated in a picturesque village with Hallway, Lounge/Diner, Sitting room, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Study, Utility Room, Cloakroom, Bathroom. UPVC double glazed windows. Gas central heating. Driveway with turning point, parking and landscaped gardens. Ref 796D.



LLANTWIT MAJOR £385,000

Modern well maintained four/five bedroom detached house with integral garage situated in a sought after area. Hallway, Cloakroom, Living Room, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, En-suite to master bedroom, Family Bathroom. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Driveway and garden to front and southerly rear garden overlooking pastureland. Ref 778D



ST ATHAN £119,500

Well maintained two bedroom end of link house situated at West Vale comprising Hallway, Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Modern Bathroom. UPVC double glazed windows. Gas fired central heating. Open plan and allocated parking to front and neatly laid garden to the rear. Ref 788D



LLANTWIT MAJOR £225,000

Modern spacious four bedroom detached house and garage comprising Hallway, Dining Room, Lounge, Breakfast Room and newly fitted Kitchen, Ground Cloakroom/Shower Room. Modern Bathroom. UPVC double glazed windows. Gas fired central heating. Driveway and garden to front and rear. Ref 789D



BOVERTON £375,000

Individually designed well maintained four bedroom detached dormer bungalow with detached garage and workshop. Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Well equipped fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Ground floor Bathroom, Two bedrooms and Cloakroom/WC to first floor. UPVC double glazing. Gas central heating. Double opening gates and driveway with well maintained gardens to front, side and rear. Ref 772D



LLANTWIT MAJOR £259,000

Established detached bungalow and garage set in a large garden first occupied in the 1930's comprising Hallway, Living Room, Three reception Rooms/Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Ground floor Bathroom/Shower Room, Two attic rooms to first floor. Double glazed and secondary glazed windows. Gas central heating. Driveway and above average size gardens Ref 787D



LLANTWIT MAJOR £235,000

Individually built detached bungalow situated in a sought after area in the old part of town. Hallway, Lounge/Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two bedrooms, Modern Bathroom/Shower room, Conservatory/Utility Area. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazed windows. Secure parking. Landscaped garden. Ref 793D



LLANTWIT MAJOR £120,000

Two bedroom end of link house situated on the Llanmaes Road comprising Hallway, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/ Breakfast Room. Bathroom & WC. Double glazed windows and gas heating. Open plan garden to front and neatly laid garden to the rear with access to allocated parking area. Ref 791D



LLANTWIT MAJOR £195,000

Modern three bedroom semi-detached house with garage situated close to the centre of town Hallway, Cloakroom, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen/Dining Room with patio doors to rear, Modern Bathroom. Gas central heating, UPVC double glazed windows. Driveway and garden to front and rear. Ref 790D



ST ATHAN £99,995

Modern three bedroom end of link house with allocated parking, Hallway, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Dining Room, Cloakroom, Family Bathroom, Boiler Room. UPVC double glazed windows. Gas fired central heating. Open plan to front & enclosed rear garden. Freehold. Ref 801D.



RHOOSE £229,950

Modern four bedroom detached link house with conservatory comprising Reception Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge, fitted Kitchen/Diner, Dining Room, Family Bathroom, Ensuite to Main Bedroom. Gas fired central heating. UPVC double glazed windows, PVC rainwater goods. Driveway. Car Port. gardens to front & rear. Panoramic view of Bristol Channel. Freehold. Ref 802D.



LLANTWIT MAJOR £175,000

Established refurbished three bedroom semi detached bungalow comprising Reception Hall, Lounges/Diner, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Family Bathroom, Garage. UPVC double glazed windows. Gas fired central heating. Gardens to front & rear. Freehold. Ref 803D.



LLANTWIT MAJOR £172,000

Modern three bedroom end of link house with attached garage comprising Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Bathroom/Wet Room, Cloakroom and Utility at back of garage. UPVC double glazed windows. Gas fired central heating. Gardens to front & rear. Freehold. Ref 804D.



LLANTWIT MAJOR £265,000

Commercial/Residential property with front office and filing room to ground floor and two newly converted self contained one bedroom flats which have been refurbished with new kitchens and bathrooms. Gas fired central heating. UPVC double glazed windows. Garden to the rear. Freehold. Ref 780D.



HIGHER END, ST ATHAN £265,000

Established very well presented individually designed detached four bedroom house and Garage with Conservatory to the rear. Hallway, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast room, Family Bathroom. UPVC double glazed windows. Gas central heating. Driveway and large well manicured gardens to front and rear. Ref 728D



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21 Nant Y Dwrgi • £126,950



- Two Double Bedrooms
- One Single Bedroom
- Walking Distance to Train Station
- NO CHAIN

LLANHARAN

32 High Street • £99,995



- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Courtyard Garden
- NO CHAIN

LLANTRISANT

Heol Pentwyn • £145,000



- Three Bedrooms
- Mid Terrace • In need of TLC
- Excellent Road Links

WHITCHURCH

Somerset Street • £104,950



- Three Bedrooms
- Through Lounge
- In need of attention • NO CHAIN

GRANGETOWN

Prospect Place • £109,950



- Purpose built
- Ground floor apartment
- Double bedroom
- NO CHAIN

CARDIFF BAY

6 Warwick House, Westgate Street, Cardiff CF10 1DH



We advise that an offer has been made for the above property in the sum of £125,000. Any person wishing to increase/better this offer should notify the office of their best offer prior to exchange of contracts.

PONTCANNA

27 Teifi Drive, Cwm Talwg, Barry CF62 7TL



We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £158,000. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before exchange of contracts takes place. Allen & Harris, 21 High Street, Barry CF62 7EA. The EPC rating is: D.

BARRY

145 Clydesmuir Road, Tremorfa, Cardiff CF24 2PZ



Allen & Harris are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £90,000. Anyone wishing to place an offer on this property should contact Allen & Harris before exchange of contracts.

ROATH

183 Glyn Eiddew £114,950



- Mid Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Downstairs WC
- Lounge & Dining Room

ROATH

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Windsor Court, Barry - £115,000
Immaculately presented, spacious 2 double bedroom apartment situated in the West end of Barry. Set within a Grade 2 listed building benefiting from many original features. Central hall, entrance, hallway, living room, kitchen, bathroom, Master bedroom with en-suite shower room, family bathroom. Secure gated parking to rear. Commercial launderette and gymnasium. No chain. EPC rating: C.



Coigne Terrace, Barry - £135,000
Refurbished to a high standard, 3 bedroom, bay front, in the heart of Barry. Entrance porch, hallway, living room, fitted kitchen and bathroom. UPVC double glazing. Gas central heating via combi boiler inst. 2014. Enclosed forecourt, rear garden. No chain.



Woodlands Rd, Barry - £139,950
Well presented, 3 bedroom, bay fronted property, entrance porch, hallway, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, Ground floor bathroom. UPVC double glazing. Gas central heating. Enclosed forecourt and rear garden.



Castleland Street, Barry - £134,950
Well presented three bedroom bay fronted. Entrance porch, hallway, 3 reception rooms, kitchen, bathroom to first floor. UPVC double glazing, gas central heating, enclosed forecourt and rear garden. Close by to all local amenities. EPC rating: E.



Spencer Street, Barry - £118,500
3 Bedroom traditional mid terrace property. Entrance hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen, Ground floor bathroom, gas central heating. Enclosed, low maintenance rear garden. Walking distance of Holton Road shops.



Fryatt Street, Barry - £109,950
2 double bedroom mid terrace property situated within the heart of Barry. Hallway, dining room, lounge, modern fitted kitchen and bathroom. UPVC double glazing, gas central heating. Enclosed rear garden, close by to all local amenities. EPC-D. No chain.



Claude Rd West, Barry - £199,950
3 bedroom bay fronted property, entrance porch, hallway, lounge, Dining room, kitchen, summer room. Bathroom to first floor, loft room. Large rear garden. No chain.



St Brannocks Close, Barry - £119,995
3 bedroom ground floor apartment set in a cul de sac. Entrance hallway, lounge/dining room. Kitchen, bathroom, UPVC double glazing. Gas central heating, enclosed rear garden. Parking to front, garage block nearby. EPC: C. No chain.



Whitmore Park Drive - £177,500
3 bedroom semi detached property. Entrance hall, lounge, dining room, modern fitted kitchen and bathroom. Office/hobby room. UPVC double glazing. Gas central heating. Gardens to front and rear. Driveway, garage.



Rutland Close, Barry - £167,500
3 bedroom semi detached property. Entrance porch, hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom. New UPVC double glazing throughout. Gas central heating. Gardens to front and rear enjoying a good degree of privacy. Driveway providing off road parking for 2/3 vehicles. No chain.



Curnix Barn, Moulton - £475,000
4 bedroom barn conversion situated within the rural Vale. Impressive ongoing project benefiting from two new paddocks. Existing current planning consent to extend the dwelling to the ground floor. Set out on one and a half acres. Reception hall, Open plan, Wet room, Utility room, Master bedroom with potential for en suite. Family bathroom. Double glazing. LPG gas central heating. No chain.



Woodham Park, Barry - £250,000
Beautiful extended 4 bedroom detached residence. Hallway, lounge, sitting room, kitchen, dining, family room. Conservatory, cloakroom, contemporary family bathroom. Majors UPVC double glazing. Gas central heating via combi boiler. Rear garden. Block forecourt off road parking for 3 vehicles. Views across open playing fields. EPC: D.



Clifford View, Barry - £309,000
4 bedroom detached bungalow set within a cul de sac location. Hallway, living room, conservatory, kitchen, Shower room, driveway providing off road parking for numerous vehicles. Garage. UPVC double glazing. Gas central heating. EPC: C. No chain.



Lower Farm House, Llancadle - £575,000
Substantial period dwelling commanding views over rural countryside. 5 bedroom family home, 2 bathrooms, ensuite. Many original features with 2 inglenook fireplaces. Mature gardens and old style pigsty to rear.



The Parade, Barry - £315,000
Well presented Victorian 4 bed semi detached. Harbour and sea views. Entrance hallway, lounge, sitting room. Modern kitchen/dining/family room. Bathroom suite. UPVC double glazing, gas central heating. Enclosed rear courtyard. Off road parking. EPC rating: D.

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Llantwit Major £385,000

- Extended detached home
- Five bedrooms
- Master en-suite
- Picturesque rural views
- EPC Rating - E



Llansannor £ TBC

- Unique detached property
- Four bedrooms
- Beautifully presented
- Generous plot
- EPC Rating-D



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PRICE**

Craig Penllyn £480,000

- 19th Century detached cottage
- Four bedrooms
- Three reception rooms
- Extended & improved
- EPC Rating-F

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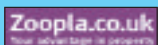
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enquiries@ninaestateagents.co.uk**CHESTERFIELD STREET, BARRY**
End of terraced, 3 bedrooms, living/dining room, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, GCH & UPVC D/G, enclosed rear garden, close to schools & shops. ER=E

£109,950

**COOK RD, BARRY**
Well presented detached, 3 bedrooms, living room, dining room, fitted kitchen. Driveway-garage, sunny aspect garden, viewing essential.

£174,950

**GERDDI MARGARET, BARRY**
Third floor apartment, 1 bedroom, designated parking, open plan lounge/kitchen, security door entry, well presented. ER=C.

£84,950

**MERTHYR DYFAN RD, BARRY**
Semi detached dwelling, living, dining & conservatory. Extended kitchen, 2 bedrooms, study and family bathroom. Attic with velux. Off road rear parking. UPVC DG, GCH/heating, viewing essential.

£147,500

**GLAN HAFREN, BARRY**
Luxury living on the edge of beach, 3 bedroom apartment, wet room, bathroom, 2 balconies with panoramic views, 2 garages, ample parking. ER=C.

£275,000

**FERN DRIVE, BARRY**
Modern semi detached, 2 bedrooms, living room, enclosed rear garden, parking to the front, situated off Colcot Rd. ER=D.

£114,950

**GELYN Y CLWR, BARRY**
Mid terraced modern, living room, kitchen/breakfast, 2 bedrooms, designated parking to front. Enclosed private garden. ER=C.

£128,500

**SALISBURY RD, BARRY**
Bay fronted mid terraced, traditional dwelling, through living/dining room. 4 bedrooms, enclosed rear garden, minutes walk to Porthcraf Park. ER=D.

£159,950

**GWALCH Y PENWAG, BARRY ISLAND**
Immaculate presentation, end of link, 3 storey, fitted kitchen, conservatory-access to garage, 4 bedrooms, 2 ensuite bathrooms & dressing room, low maintenance garden. ER=C.

£225,000

**WOODLANDS RD, BARRY**
Bay fronted mid terrace, through living room, dining room, 3 bedrooms, hobby room in attic, double garage approx 18ft x 16ft. No chain. ER=E.

£145,950

**SURAN Y GOG, BARRY**
Modern detached property, 4 bedrooms-master ensuite. Kitchen/breakfast room, WC/cloakroom. Living room/dining room. Garage/driveway. Enclosed rear garden. Well presented. ER=D.

£234,950

**CASTLE STREET, BARRY**
Immaculate presentation, corner traditional dwelling, living, dining room, fitted kitchen/breakfast, 2 bedrooms, hobby room in attic, viewing essential. ER=F.

£134,950

**BARRY RD, BARRY**
Spacious mid terrace, 3 double bedrooms, living/dining room, kitchen/breakfast, UPVC D/G & GCH via combi, enclosed rear garden. ER=D.

£114,950

**FALCON RD, BARRY**
3 Bedrooms, Semi detached, through living room, driveway/garage, no chain, cul de sac position. ER=D.

£134,950

**CONWAY DRIVE, BARRY**
Immaculate presentation, modern semi detached, living room, dining room opening to modern kitchen, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom, driveway, raised decked sun terrace, lawn garden. ER=C.

£180,000

**JENNER RD, BARRY**
Stunning showhome, 3 bedrooms, attic/hobby area with dormer window, refurbished to high standard, living room, open plan/kitchen diner, long garden. ER=E.

£169,950

**HEOL SIRHWI, BARRY**
2 double bedrooms, semi detached bungalow, viewing highly recommended, living/dining room, well presented, cul de sac position, driveway providing ample parking, garage. No chain. EP=D.

£154,950

**THE BEECHES, BARRY**
Detached, originally a care home. Ground flr: 3 recep. rooms, kitchen, office, WC & shower room, 3 bedrooms, laundry room, 2nd flr: 12 rooms, 9 WCs, 1 bathroom. No chain. UPVC DG, gas central heating

£370,000

**BARRY RD, BARRY**
Edwardian mid terraced, 3 double bedrooms, 18ft breakfast/kitchen. Off road parking to rear via lane. Town centre location. No chain. ER=D.

£130,000

**QUEEN STREET, BARRY**
Mid terraced traditional, through living room, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, hobby area to attic, 1st floor bathroom. No chain, GCH via combi (not tested). EPC=D.

£95,000

**BARRY RD, BARRY**
End of terrace, double bay traditional, 2 reception rooms, 1st floor bathroom, offered with no chain. ER=D.

£74,950

**HOLMES ST, BARRY**
Mid terraced traditional, well presented, through living room, modern fitted kitchen, ground flr bathroom, 3 double bedrooms, enclosed rear garden. No chain. ER=E.

£90,000

**EVERARD ST, BARRY**
Immaculate showhome presented, mid terraced traditional, through living room, fitted kitchen-integrated appliances, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom, enclosed low maintenance rear garden.

£129,950

**HATCH COTTAGE, BARRY**
Built in 18th century, detached cottage, retaining original features. 2 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, raised decked sun terrace. Detached hobby room, off road parking, very well presented.

£164,950

**WHITE FARM, BARRY**
Spacious 4 bedroom, Persimmon built detached, living room, kitchen/diner, utility room, ensuite to master, detached garage, well presented. ER=C.

£244,950

**BROAD CLOSE, BARRY**
Maintenance fee, ground floor, living room, modern kitchen, integrated appliances, 2 double bedrooms, sun terrace overlooking communal, gardens. No chain.

£114,950

**BARRY RD, BARRY**
End of terrace, double bay traditional, living room, dining room, spacious kitchen/breakfast, 3 double bedrooms, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden, lane access. ER=D.

£149,950

**MOREL STREET, BARRY**
Mid terraced traditional, through living room/dining area. Converted garage, cul de sac position, driveway, overlooking vale. ER=C.

£80,000

**ELM GROVE, BARRY**
Semi detached bungalow, 3 bedrooms, showhome presented, living room, spacious plot, ample parking, viewing essential. ER=D.

£169,950

**THE PARADE, BARRY**
Well presented, traditional semi detached, living room, dining room to conservatory, fitted kitchen, WC & utility room. 3 double bedrooms, driveway with paved driveway/garage. Large garden. ER=D.

£339,950

**HEOL Y GAER, BARRY**
First floor apartment, 2 bedrooms, enclosed kitchen, far reaching sea views from rear, UPVC DG - GCH via combi. Allocated parking. No chain. ER=C

£153,950

**WESTON STREET, BARRY**
Mid terraced traditional, double bay fronted, living/dining room, fitted kitchen. Enclosed rear courtyard, UPVC - DG via combi. No chain. ER=D.

£112,950

**NANT TALWG WAY, BARRY**
Detached traditional, 2 reception rooms, WC cloakroom, fitted kitchen, 4 bedrooms, family bathroom, private enclosed garden, driveway/garage. ER=C.

£269,950

**FONMON PARK RD, RHOOOSE**
3 bedroomed, link detached, living room/dining area. Converted garage, cul de sac position, driveway, overlooking vale. ER=C.

£159,950

**COLCOT RD, BARRY**
Extended dwelling, living room, dining room to sitting area, fitted kitchen/breakfast, WC cloakroom, 4 bedrooms & dressing/study, farm bathroom, level enclosed garden. Garage/driveway. ER=C.

£289,950

**PENCOEDTRE RD, BARRY**
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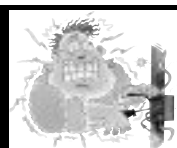
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on 1st January

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Public Notices

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Birthdays

Happy 15th Birthday

for 9 February

Cara Marie Wibley

Lots of love

Mum & Neil, Nicole,
Mia, Dylan, Scarlett
& Tyler xxx

Happy 13th Birthday

Lucy Jade Wood
15 February

Lots of love,
have a fab day, the great
grandparents, grandad,
Nan and David, Clare,
John, Emma and Jake xxx

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GEM FAMILY NOTICES

DAVIES Wilf

Passed away on Sunday, 8 February at Llandough
Hospital. Very dearly loved husband of Val and
cherished dad of Sandy. Sadly missed by his beloved
Poppy. Much loved uncle of Helen, Catherine and
Richard, great uncle of Kirsty and Stuart. Loving
uncle of all his other nieces and nephews.

Will be sadly missed by all family and friends.

Funeral service at St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major on
Thursday, 19 February at 2pm, followed by cremation
at Coychurch crematorium.
No flowers by request.

BATTY Alan Stewart

**Suddenly on February 4 at his home in
Rhoose, Alan, a loving and devoted
husband of Susan.**

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James &
Sons, Fommon. Funeral Thursday February 19,
service and cremation 11am at Cardiff &
Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. No flowers by
request, donations in lieu, if desired, to The Dogs
Trust, Court Coleman, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend, CF31
4NG or Cats Protection, Bridgend AC, Pant
Hirwaun, Bryncethin, Bridgend, CF32 9UJ.

CLEMENTS Frank

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended
Frank's funeral on January 30th and to our
friends and the parishioners of St Helen's
Church and to Canon Pat. Also, thanks to
Lyndsay Ellis and Vale Funeral Services for
their care and compassion. A big thank you for
everyone's generosity to Frank's chosen charity.
Margaret and Family.

Valentine's Day

**Happy
Valentine's Day
Joshua Yorwerth**



*This is our first
Valentine's Day with
many years to come.
All my love
Melanie
xxx*

REES

Violet Lorraine

Peacefully at Llandough Hospital on February
8th, after a very short illness, at the age of 96
years, Vi of Jenner Road, Barry. Dearly beloved
wife of the late Jack, much loved mum of
Lorraine and Susan and the late John, mother-
in-law of John and the late Alan, adored nan to
all her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Resting at AG Adams & Son, Tynnewydd Funeral
Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until her funeral
service in the chapel on Wednesday February 18th
at 9.15am, followed by cremation at the Cardiff &
Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 10.15am. Family
flowers only but donations in lieu to the British
Heart Foundation and Marie Curie Cancer Care.

WATTS

Valerie

(Formerly of Llantrithyd)

Val's family would like to thank everyone who
attended her funeral service at Llantrithyd on
6th January 2015, for the many cards and
messages received and for the donations made
towards the Llantrithyd Church Restoration
Fund.

We would also like to thank the staff at Springbanks
Nursing Home and West Quay Surgery for the care
provided to Val.

JONES

Mervyn Gordon

Suddenly but peacefully on 26 January at the
Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Mervyn of
St Athan. Beloved husband of Joan, dearly loved
dad to Sue, Adrian, Cathryn and Neil, father-in-
law to Peter, Joan, James and Carys, special
grampa to Hannah, Jonathan, Alex, Luke, Kofi
and Daisy.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James &
Sons, Fommon. Funeral Tuesday 17 February,
service and cremation 2pm at Cardiff & Glamorgan
Crematorium, Barry. Family flowers only may be
sent to the funeral home, donations in lieu, if
desired, to Action for Children, c/o J James,
11 Fommon Road, Rhoose,
Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.
Forever in our hearts and thoughts.

GRIFFITHS

Berwyn

On January 29th peacefully at home, Berwyn,
beloved husband of Lisa, dearly loved father to
Jessica, Tomos and Eleni, brother to Geraint,
brother-in-law to Nicola and cherished son of Alun
and Janis. He fought long and hard with a calm
courage.

Funeral service will be held on Monday, 16th February
at Wenallt Chapel Thornhill Crematorium at 2pm.
No flowers but any donations in lieu should be made to
Brain Tumour Research via Funeral Directors H J & E
Piper & Son, Abertridwr, Caerphilly.

GEARY Keith John

Sylvia Geary and her family would like to
express their thanks for the cards, letters,
flowers, telephone calls and visits received on the
sad loss of Keith, a much loved husband, father
and grandfather. We have been overwhelmed by
the kindness and consideration shown.

Sylvia extends her personal thanks and appreciation
to all her neighbours, ambulance crews, staff at
UHW, Reverend Huw Butler and members of St.
Illtud's Church, John James of Fommon, staff at the
West House Country Hotel and Llantwit Major
Town Council staff and Councillors for their help
and support during a very difficult time.

WILLIAMS Shelagh Eileen

Peacefully, at home, on Tuesday, 27 January,
Shelagh of Peterston-Super-Ely. Beloved wife of the
late Ivor, much loved mum of Gordon and Linda,
mother-in-law of Hugh. Dearest nan of Matthew,
Andrea and her husband Ade. Nanny Sheel to
Emilia and Nell.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James &
Sons, Fommon. Funeral service at St Peters Church,
Peterston-Super-Ely on Monday, 16th February at
1.45pm, followed by cremation service at Cardiff and
Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry, at 3pm. Family
flowers only, but donations please to CLIMB (Children
Living with Inherited Metabolic Diseases) c/o J James,
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GEISHEIMER (Nee Hocking) Jenny

Suddenly at home on January 24th, aged 59.
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Susan and Phillip, and the late sister of
Cathy, Tommy and Melvyn. Beloved wife of
the late Henry.

Resting at Park Funeral Directors, 7 Tynnewydd
Road, Barry, until the service at Cardiff and
Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East on
Friday, 13th February at 11am. Flowers may be
sent to funeral directors.

CULE Geoffrey

Geoffrey of Marine Drive, Barry, died
peacefully on 6 February, aged 75, surrounded
by his loving family. He faced his illness with
great courage and dignity. Beloved husband of
Mary and father of Naomi, Tim and Emma.
Devoted grandfather to Ffion, Morien, Mabli,
Joe, Charlie, Siôn and Daniel.

The funeral will be at All Saints' Church, Barry at
2pm on Wednesday, 18 February. Family flowers
only please but donations can be made to the
British Heart Foundation. Enquires to William
James and Sons, Fommon, 01446 710096.

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Total Amount Payable	£11,308.15	Representative APR	8.8%
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Llantwit under-10s are too strong for Llandaff

ON a very misty Sunday morning, Llantwit Major under-10s travelled to Llandaff North.

The match started very quickly, with two lovely running tries from Llantwit, one from Dylan M followed quickly by one from Rhys G.

Llandaff North, were a little stunned, but soon found their feet. They were working hard to get through Llantwit's defence, but Caleb, Dylan W and Logan, were stopping everything that came their way, and after gaining turn over ball in the ruck, Llantwit's Owen was next to race over.

Llandaff were quick off the mark at the next start whistle, and caught Llantwit off guard with some great passing, creating space for their first try.

Llantwit were talking to each other, spreading the field and creating some great passages of play. Rhys D and Tom made some fantastic tackles, forcing the play their way, opening the field for Dylan M and Logan to score again for Llantwit.

It was Rhys G who had the last play of the first half, scoring try number six for Llantwit.

After a quick team talk at halftime, Llantwit were back to the pitch to show that they really can play and enjoy rugby.

With some great



passing from Ollie, and solid defence from Dylan W, Abraham and Caleb, Llandaff just could not get past the defensive line.

Sam A made a fantastic break for the line, scoring his first try of the match, followed quickly by Rhys G.

With some great rucking from Caleb and Owen, play opened up enabling Sam A and Dylan M to score two lovely running tries.

Llandaff were still attacking well and it was only through some solid tackling from Jamie and Rhys D, that Llandaff were kept out.

Llantwit were after every ball, on Llandaff's players quickly, stopping them play their game,

they were rucking to gain possession, and it was through Caleb's fantastic play in the rucks that he was able to pick up a split ball and push over the line.

It was Llantwit who had the final say in the



game too, with a lovely pass from Ollie out to the wing, then on to Tom, who ran over the line to finish the match. Final score: Llandaff North 1, Llantwit Major 12. Try scorers: Dylan M (3), Rhys G (3), Sam A (2), Logan, Owen, Caleb and Tom. Man of the match - Dylan Wright for

SR

Cowbridge youth team play in rather strange conditions!

THE Cowbridge 1st XV had their game called off due to a frozen pitch, but the BD youth team travelled to St Peters and in a bizarre turn of events won 0-10.

Some players who set off before St Peters said they had problems with their pitch but not long after turning back they were again heading for Cardiff.

When the team got there they saw the problem - only one set of proper posts - but play started 30 minutes later and centre Ashford Thomas got the first try following a charge down.

St Peters were strong up front but conceded penalties and from one, a kick to the corner brought the second try for flanker and captain Joe Davies.

No kicks were allowed due the posts being in order at one end but the other having just one and a stump.

This Saturday, the youth teams take centre stage with BC youth entertaining Bridged Athletic at home in the Cup. Kick off at 2.30pm with Ireland v France to follow.

The BD youth team are away at Ystradgynlais in the Neath Valley in the Bowl, a village with a strong rugby heritage.

All support for both teams would be very

welcome and appreciated.

The 1st XV are back in action on February 21 at home to Old Penarthians.

There was more sad news last week as the club learnt of the passing of Ian Hawkins.

Ian was the sort of player any club would value, a very good No 8, committed, reliable and a lot of fun off the pitch.

Our thoughts are with those closest to him, his family and friends.

RV/RK

Cowbridge darts league

ON Tuesday, February 3, there was a full programme of league matches. The Edmondes A were defeated 3-6 by the Hare and Hounds. In this match, Steve Simmonite (Edmondes B) won a leg in 10 darts.

The top two teams both won 9-0; Llanharry against the Farmers Arms and the Edmondes B against the Old Post Ladies. All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome. For further information e-mail Paul a cowbridgedarts@gmail.com; up-to-date standings after 14 matches, are: Llanharry (105 points), Edmondes B (81), Highwayman Inn

(70), Edmondes A (69), Hare and Hounds (60), Farmer's Arms and Edmondes C (46) and Old Post Ladies (25). On Tuesday, February 17, there is a full programme of league matches. The Edmondes A hosts Llanharry, the Edmondes C hosts the Edmondes B, the Hare and Hounds hosts the Highwayman Inn and the Farmers Arms hosts the Old Post Ladies.

PJT

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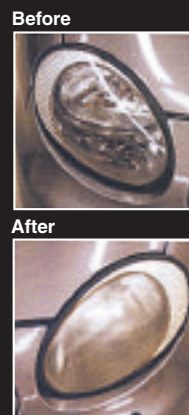
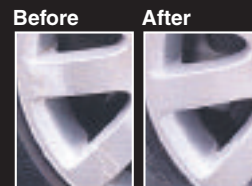
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First division:
Castaways (N Foscolo 27) 247, Allsorts (L Thomas 28) 251; Barry Stars (M Richards 34) 333, Coppers (J Hartnell 36) 327; SV Gals (E Phillips 29) 265, Special Angels (L Mountford, J Abram 30) 252; Pila Palas (J Griffiths, S Bennett, H Stroniforth 30) 314, Colcot Ladies (K Miller 33) 307; Family Affair (S Evans, L Brown, C Grubb 26) 254; Red Admiral (Steph Clements 28) 258, Family and Friends (A Baker, J Jones 23) 222, Space Finders (M Clark 24) 203; Bakers Dozen (R Hewitson 30) 251, Cigar Ladies (G Buffry 30) 248.

Second division:

After Eights (A Jackson 29) 276, Strikers (P Montgomery 33) 300; Witchill Widows (L Sullivan 33) 309, Clickies (N Harvey 34) 318; SV Lights (P Beadle 30) 294, Vixens (M Marks 28) 218; Witchill Weebies (S Edwards 31) 317, Bobby's Girls (B McDonald 36) 336; Rhoose Starlights (G Oliver 27) 245, Castle Bandits (B Evans 27) 254; Breakaways (Vicky Martin 29) 309, Cad Con Fillies (T Clements 29) 261.

Third division:

Hill Billies (G Morcraft 34) 316, Rhoose Ravers (C Davidson 34) 270; Westenders (H Coombes 26) 231, Jolly Dollies (C Jones 27)

255; Airways Angels (L Donovan 26) 248, Witchill Wanderers (C Morrissey 29) 215; Dolly Mixtures (P Davies, E Bryan 22) 222, Rugby Triers (N Williams 26) 193; Persuaders (K Phillips 27) 215, S V Ladies (F Butler, C Griffiths 2) 234; Friends and Neighbours (W Gibbs, L Pugh 24) 232, Lil's Devils (S Jones 30) 261; Merry Makers (R Collins 26) 203, Etcetera (M Grasby 23) 184.

Fourth division: Off The Rails (S Doughty 20) 183, Odd Bods (T Ceriani 24) 161; Rebels (R Sutton, J Farr 24) 195, Railway Rogues (S Sjodin 27) 235; Fallen Angels (L Chambers 33) 271, Challengers (P Birmingham, J Dimond 25) 239; Booby Birds (J Ladner 21) 171, La Belles (N Cordy 25) 223.

Fifth division: Hell Raisers (A Bennett 23) 173, Smurfs (S Harris 25) 189; Socialites (J Marks 25) 250, Nite Outers (T Harry 27) 228; Guardian Angels (L Harris 24) 177, Aristocats (S Morgan 25) 201.

Don't Tell Dai! SAYS LOCAL RIDER CONNOR!

CONNOR BRACE, a member of the Llangeinor Hunt Pony Club, riding the eight-year-old mare Don't Tell Dai, won the 148cm pony race at the Mid Devon Point-to-Point Steeplechases at Blackforest Lodge recently.

Connor is the grandson of David Brace OBE, who owns the Dunraven Stud Farm at Pyle near Bridgend.

MAXANISI WINS BUMPER

Only five horses went to post in the National Hunt flat race (Bumper) at Ffos Las - and three of them were trained by Llancarfan's Evan Williams.

Captain McGinley, trained by Rebecca Curtis who saddled the previous year's winner, was made an odds-on favourite. However, it was the Williams trained 10-1 shot Maxanisi, partnered by Adam Wedge, which caught the judge's eye and was deemed to have won by a neck.

Williams' In On The Act, ridden by Connor Ring, took third place and his other runner Sparksfrommyheels ridden by stable jockey

Paul Moloney was fourth.

Williams is the top trainer at Ffos Las having saddled 54 winners there to Pembrokeshire's Peter Bowen's 52.

HIGH HATTON

Cowbridge's Jeff Bird saw his High Hatton land the open maiden race at the Southdown and Eridge Hunt Steeplechases at Godstone on Sunday.

High Hatton, who was giving his trainer Merthyr Mawr's Jonathan Tudor his third winner from six runners this season was given a brilliant ride by James Tudor and apparently won more easily than the half-a-length verdict suggested.

ALLEZ VIC

Allez Vic, who is trained by Llancarfan's Evan Williams, defied top weight of 11st, 12lb, when winning the handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter last Saturday.

Confidently ridden by Adam Wedge, the nine-year-old won by six lengths from Cafe Au Lait at odds of 4-1.

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Barrivale results

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for February 3; this event was the first half of the Barrivale mixed pairs competition.

1st Kay & Reg Dyer 59.17%; 2nd Jane Brook & Ken Hannah 56.25%; 3rd Mark Roderick & Noelle Bond 55.00%. Kay and Reg Dyer also won this session on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required.

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Llantwit Major RFC break 80-point barrier in drubbing of the Old Pens

On a cold Saturday afternoon with the disappointment of Wales' defeat the previous evening clear in everyone's mind, Llantwit Major made the short trip to Penarth and the home of the Old Penarthians or Old Pens as they are affectionately known.

It was a bumper day for Llantwit as they ran in 12 tries in total for a final score of 84-12, in a display that on occasions looked like the famous Barbarians with the ball going through multiple sets of hands before being set down over the try line.

Llantwit were beset by pullouts before the game but this did not alter the focus of each and every player in the squad. What was even more pleasing than the result is that the conveyor belt of talent coming through from the younger ranks is still working and young Joel Thomas enjoyed a winning debut in senior rugby with nothing less than an assured display that any onlooker would have thought he was a regular in the team.

It wasn't long from the kick off that Llantwit used simple rugby from a scrum with number 8 Dan Farrel picking up and offloading to scrum half Rhys Balmont who found Steff Price who pierced the line expertly before offloading to Wasiauw Vackegu to score the first try that was converted by Chris

Fowler.

The lead was extended further when Chris Fowler knocked over a penalty. With the nerves seemingly settled there was a lapse in concentration that allowed the Old Pens in for a converted try.

Play continued following the restart and it was Old Pens who yielded yet another penalty this time again in a kickable position for Chris Fowler to take the three points.

From the kick off, Llantwit regrouped the ball and worked their way up field and through some smart interpassing Joel Thomas found himself in space to canter over the try line for a try on his senior debut.

The game now became all about Llantwit and the side started running everything they could, even though when they tried to keep up the tempo from penalties through taking the quick tap the referee called them back.

The handling skills of everyone were sublime and Gareth Watts put in a barn storming display in the loose, making hard yards and with some immense offloads the next try wasn't long coming when Joel Thomas, after almost seemingly getting caught with the ball, managed to slickly offload it to captain Marcus Pearce, who crossed for his first try of the afternoon.

The fitness of the Llantwit players was clearly

evident and with a number of injuries in the home side it just further disrupted their game plan and they could not find any continuity. Wasiauw Vackegu continued with his Fijian flair and sold the covering defence the biggest dummy ever to create a try that was converted by Chris Fowler.

Just before halftime, Old Pens struck back with a try of their own to leave the score Old Penarthians 12, Llantwit Major 32. The halftime message was clear - continue in the same manner in the second half and finish the game off.

Old Pens kicked off the second half and the ball found Marcus Pearce who stuck his head down and made off at speed.

Following a number of missed tackles, Marcus crossed for his second try which was again converted by fly-half Fowler. Llantwit were now dictating all facets of play but the home side would not give up.

The pack continued their good work and it wasn't long before Rhys Davies crossed the line to score with a number of defenders on his back. Fowler adding the extras.

Next came another forwards' try; after securing the ball at a lineout they rumbled upfield and over the line for Dan Daw to claim his first try of the afternoon. Even after conceding 50 points the home side would not lie down and still came out fighting and scrapping for every ball they could.

Dan Farrel was next to get on the scoresheet after being particularly solid at the back of the scrums, another try that was converted by Chris Fowler.

Sam Booker, who had an outstanding game commanding the lineup on his own throws and stealing opposition ball with ease, with help from his

lifters, took a well-deserved try.

Marcus Pearce was next to extend the team score when he crossed for his hat-trick.

From a lean spell of about five minutes Llantwit secured the ball and it was spun across the line before Dan Daw, who had been lurking on the touchline, galloped over from 30 yards out for his second try.

Rob Grapes was next to get in on the act for a close range try that was converted by Dan Powell and, in the final act of the game, it was captain Marcus Pearce who broke the defence again to run in from almost halfway for his fourth and final try that was converted by Rob Grapes.

It was a long, long afternoon for the Old Pens players but they did not give up at all and kept on trying until the very end.

This was their biggest defeat in the league to date and also Llantwit's biggest win. There will of course be tougher days than this, but it will not have done the team's confidence any harm to blow away the cobwebs and it's not every day a team scores 12 tries.

There is a week off now until Llantwit travel to St Albans on February 21, and hopefully this will allow players who have picked up some knocks and bruises some time to recover fully.

With Barry and Dinas Powis continuing to set the standard in the division, Llantwit are hard on their heels in third and, with Llantwit having to play them both before the end of the season, anything is possible.

The youth are in action against Taffs Well at home on Friday, February 13 - kick off at 7.30pm.

NE

VIFC hit eight against Cogan in cup encounter

VIFC dominated Cogan Coronation 8-1 in the Supporters Cup to set up a quarter-final clash with Cadoxton Barry.

Richie Humphreys sent the Division One leaders on their way with a header in the opening minute, later adding his second. Aaron Rogers showed clinical finishing to put the home side in full control before Sean Flynn got in on the act.

Skipper Jordan Mortimore hit a brace in the second period either side of a stunner from Reece Lewis to complete the scoring.

VIFC had beaten Cogan earlier in the season in a league fixture, 4-3, in what was an exciting game and a tight affair was expected once again, but the VIFC got off to the best start possible as Reece Lewis' corner was met with a powerful header from Humphreys.

The fantastic start continued as Cogan struggled to contend with the home side's intensity. Aaron Rogers showed a brilliant flash of skill to dance his way into the area, the ball then ricocheted back to the striker and Rogers finished clinically.

Two penalty appeals were turned down between goals and Jordan Mortimore narrowly missed the target with a stinging left-footed drive.

The VI's were three goals up after 16 minutes in a tremendous move. Joe Laing broke up a rare Cogan attack and moved up the field with the ball, he played it into Mortimore who let the ball run through to Sean Flynn. Flynn then delivered a low cross for Rogers to dispatch for his second.

Bill Laing's VI's were cruising now and in full control. Another pin point Lewis corner was once again met by Humphreys for a double for the centre half. Humphreys putting his head in where it hurts to get the rewards.

Straight from kick off, VI regained possession. The ball was played forward for Mortimore to chase. The Cogan defender attempted a clearance but Mortimore never gave up and blocked it, the rebound fell for Flynn just inside the area and he fired home first time with a cracking left foot strike.

An unexpected free goal lead going into the break had seen the VIFC blow Cogan away with a magnificent, clinical display.

The game all but won, VI subconsciously eased off and this allowed Cogan to grab a consolation goal from a free kick.

The light would awake the team and they quickly burst back into life as the captain got in on the goalscoring.

Paul Lucas' big boot up field was touched on by Phil Morgan to put in Mortimore, who sidefooted the ball into the net with real composure.

It was Mortimore's free kick that was headed away as far as full back Reece Lewis, who connected with a scintillating left footed volley from just outside the area that nestled right in the bottom corner. Great technique and a well deserved goal from the left back.

Jordan Mortimore completed the scoring; Nicky Cox got the ball down at the back and played it into the feet of Morgan, who in turn slipped the ball into the path of Mortimore who then unleashed an

unstoppable shot that left the keeper rooted, a strike that any keeper would have done well to save.

It was a much more comfortable victory than VIFC would have expected as the win sent them through to the quarter-finals of the Supporters Cup.

Midfielders Tony Charles and Joe Laing turned in fine performances, breaking up play, organising the side and showing composure on the ball to start many moves.

Team: P.Lucas, J.Robinson, N.Cox, R.Humphreys, R.Lewis, T.Charles, J.Laing,

C.Goodwin, S.Flynn, A.Rogers, J.Mortimore. Substitutes: R.West, D.Garrison, J.Austin, P.Morgan.

A very good team performance all round from the league leaders as they go back to league action with a crunch match away to title rivals Wenvoe on Saturday in what should be an exciting encounter.

Thank you to Owens Motor Services, Llandow, Higgy Site Services, Barry & The Three Horseshoes Inn, St Athan for their continued support.

HD

The under-9s show improvement

A lovely morning for rugby as the Llantwit Major under-9s travelled to Llandaff North.

Another great turn out of players - they were Dylan Brown, Thomas George, Corey Cox, Braydan Griffiths, Owen Richards, Lewys Ingram, Marcus Hamner, Carwyn John, Tom Jones, Brandon Harris, Thomas Lamerton, Flynn Barry, Tom Hamlett, Kian Barnett, Kelyn Joseph and Calvin Williams.

The coaches had a chat before the match and they decided to play three 10-minute matches. The coaches' choice for the first game were Dylan, Thomas G, Corey, Braydan, Owen, Rhys, Lewys,

Marcus, Carwyn and Tom J.

The boys played some great rugby and put a great deal of effort into their tackling. There was some fine off-loading but in this game it wasn't enough for Llantwit, with the score at full time Llantwit Major 0, Llandaff North 2.

The players for the second match were Brandon, Thomas L, Flynn, Tom H, Kian, Kelyn, Calvin, Rhys, Lewys and Dylan, and the boys got stuck in and were making some excellent tackles.

They were trying really hard to make the try line but Llandaff North again managed to defeat us with the score at full time Llantwit Major 1, Llandaff North 4, try scored by Brandon.

The players for the last match were Braydan, Corey, Owen, Tom J, Thomas G, Marcus, Carwyn, Brandon, Flynn and Kian, and this match saw a turnaround for Llantwit as the boys were determined not to let Llandaff North get past them.

With some excellent tackling they stayed in their positions and offloaded the ball instead of losing it, and this showed in the result with a win for Llantwit, final score Llantwit Major 4 Llandaff North 2. The try scorers were Brandon (2), Braydan and Corey.

Men of the matches were Tom J and Calvin, well done boys you are improving every week.

MG



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SIX NATIONS RUGBY

WALES 16 : ENGLAND 21



Team can prove drab display was a 'one-off' and get back on track



Photographs by
Huw Evans
Agency

Woeful Wales looking for redemption against Scots

EVEN now, almost a week later, the shock waves following the 16-21 humbling by an injury-hit, revamped England side, continue to be felt, as a shaken Welsh squad now have to steel themselves for their next big test – against a resurgent Scottish side at Murrayfield on Sunday.

While the steadily-improving Scots can take heart from a spirited display against France in their Six Nations opening game in Paris – despite going down 15-8 – in contrast, the Wales team can only look back with a shudder on an insipid performance that was unrecognisable from the heroics of two years ago – when they crushed a far more formidable Grand Slam-hunting England side 30-3.

On Friday evening, in a hyped-up, expectant Millennium Stadium and facing far less experienced opponents, several of whom were being thrust into the heat of battle in the intimidating Cardiff atmosphere for the first time, a settled, injury-free home team packed with British Lions were clear pre-match favourites.

They were widely expected to again steamroller the men in white, as the first step towards a possible fourth Grand Slam in nine years, before taking on the rugby world later this year.

Not for the first time, though, the heavy weight of expectation may well have been part of Wales' downfall, for it does not rest lightly on shoulders that historically seem more at ease with the tag of underdogs than favourites – and have long struggled to attain the kind of consistency and ingrained self-assurance exuded by the likes of world champions New Zealand, for example.

How else to explain the Welsh camp's dismal failure to rise to the occasion and seize

such a golden opportunity to lay down an early marker – instead of handing the psychological initiative to age-old rivals they will next face at the Rugby World Cup in Twickenham in September?

Most vexing of all for head coach and Kiwi, Warren Gatland, was surely the abysmal second half display, which fell well below the standards set since his tenure began in 2008, which has included three Six Nations championships and a World Cup semi final in 2011.

Yet it had all begun so promisingly when Wales went ahead barely a minute from the kick-off, with a penalty by Leigh Halfpenny, and then Dragons No 8, Taulupe Faletau, broke away from an unstable attacking scrum and passed to scrum half Rhys Webb, who broke through a defensive gap for a try converted by Halfpenny, to give Wales a 10-0 lead after seven minutes.

Home joy was short-lived, however, as England hit back almost immediately with an inventive try of their own, after Mike Brown had delivered a neat grubber kick enabling right wing Anthony Watson to touch down unopposed – impressive outside half George Ford's conversion attempt hitting an upright – to halve the Welsh lead.

Up then stepped 'Mr Reliable', Leigh Halfpenny to land a monster 45-yard penalty and remind the opposition not to infringe anywhere in the field – but in fact it was the home team that offended, and this time Ford made no mistake to narrow the points margin to 13-8.

Liam Williams (who some felt should have had a starting spot) came on briefly after wing George North was injured and immediately injected the energy and pace that had been woefully lacking; and after Halfpenny had uncharacteristically missed with a penalty attempt, outside half Dan Biggar slotted over a snap drop goal, to make the halftime score

16-8. It seemed a promising enough platform to build on, but little did anyone in the crowd know then that Wales would fail to score again in a truly dire second half, during which their set piece troubles would mount and they would be out-thought and out-fought in all departments.

Indeed, it took the increasingly confident and far more inventive, attack-minded visitors only four minutes to narrow the margin to one point with a try by impressive centre Jonathan Joseph, converted by his Bath team mate, Ford.

Wales fell foul of the French referee yet again, and were fortunate that Ford missed with a second penalty attempt. But when Welsh wing Alex Cuthbert was yellow-carded, the former made no mistake and after an English try was disallowed, it was the outside half who applied the inevitable *coup de grace* with the decisive penalty that made the final score 16-21.

Little wonder that a grim-faced Gatland apparently had little to say to his charges in the dressing room afterwards – his silence was enough.

To the media he was a little more forthcoming, singling out individual errors and defending a limited game plan that placed an undue emphasis on tactical kicking deep into space, rather than retaining good possession and putting the untried English defence to the test with ball in hand.

Unlike their opponents, they failed to launch a single threequarter movement of any note. "We wanted to use the kicking game as an attacking weapon," he explained, adding that it was the way of the modern game.

However... "at this level, you have got to be accurate," he said ruefully, referring to the plethora of ill-placed kicks that were easily dealt with and all too often enabled England to launch counter attacks that immediately put Wales on the back foot.

TOP LEFT: Jamie Roberts had been expected to test a perceived lightweight defence, but in fact made only one trademark charge through the middle as Wales stuck to an ultimately fruitless kicking game.

ABOVE: Full back Mike Brown was a constant attacking threat and also underlined Welsh lack of creativity in setting up England's first try.

BELOW: Spectacular, but out of place: The controversial laser-lights show minutes before the start, that did nothing to build up excitement on a chilly Friday night in Cardiff and the capacity crowd impatient to watch a game of rugby!



Gatland did not feel that England were "massively depleted", arguing that they enjoyed strength in depth and that "the players who came in did a massive job for them".

Even so, he must have been dismayed at the tame second half surrender of seasoned troops to a mixed force containing relatively raw international recruits.

It was a comprehensive defeat and it will be fascinating to see how the Welsh camp respond to a setback that could have implications far beyond the result, not only for their 2015 Six Nations hopes, but the World Cup campaign, and even the continued recovery of Welsh rugby itself.

The pressure is now on and Edinburgh this Sunday has suddenly assumed a much greater significance as the squad seek to get back on a winning track. There is no doubt it can be done – but this really is now a must-win game.

No wonder all eyes were on Gatland's team announcement yesterday – Liam Williams the only change, replacing George North.

WALES TEAM:

Leigh Halfpenny (Toulon), Alex Cuthbert (Blues), Jonathan Davies (ASM Clermont Auvergne), Jamie Roberts (Racing Metro), Liam Williams (Scarlets), Dan Biggar (Ospreys), Rhys Webb (Ospreys), Gethin Jenkins (Blues), Richard Hibbard (Gloucester), Samson Lee (Scarlets), Jake Ball (Scarlets), Alun Wyn Jones (Ospreys), Dan Lydiate (Ospreys), Sam Warburton (Blues), Taulupe Faletau (Dragons).

REPLACEMENTS: Scott Baldwin (Ospreys), Paul James (Bath Rugby), Aaron Jarvis (Ospreys), Luke Charteris (Racing Metro), Justin Tipuric (Ospreys), Mike Phillips (Racing Metro), Rhys Priestland (Scarlets), Scott Williams (Scarlets).